Established 1865

she ploneer

ROUND AT PAN PACIFIC OPEN



GIVE PEACE A CHANCE



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Kazan, Tuesday

PTI KAZAN

Russia-Ukraine conflict should be resolved in a peaceful manner and India is ready to possible all cooperation towards it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during his talks with Russian President

Modi held bilateral talks with

Putin hours after arriving in this central Russian city to between attend the 16th BRICS summit. In his televised opening remarks, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Russian leader that New Delhi "fully supports" the early return of peace and stability in the region.

Modi also said that his second visit to Russia in the last three return of peace and stability.

months reflected "close" All our efforts give priority to

coordination and "deep trust" countries."We are in constant touch on the issue of ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As I said earlier, we believe that problems should be resolved in a peaceful

"We fully support the early All our efforts give priority to

manner," the Prime Minister

provide possible cooperation in times to come," he said. "We have the opportunity to discuss all these issues," he added.

On his part, Putin noted the "good condition" of trade turnover between Russia and India. In his remarks, Modi also referred to his summit talks with the Russian leader in Moscow in July. Our annual summit resulted in strengthening cooperation in every field, he said.

The Prime Minister also congratulated Putin on Russia's successful presidency of BRICS. Many countries want to join the grouping now, he added. "It is a matter of great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to visit a beautiful city like Kazan for the BRICS summit. India has deep and historical ties with this city," Modi said.

"The opening of India's new consulate in Kazan will further strengthen these ties," he added. It is learnt that the Ukraine conflict figured prominently at the meeting. In the summit talks on July 9 in Moscow, Modi told Putin that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace efforts do not succeed in the midst of bombs and bullets. Weeks later he travelled to Ukraine. In his talks with Zelenskyy, Modi said both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the region. India has been maintaining that the conflict in Ukraine must be resolved through dialogue



Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi during a press conference, in New Delhi

We are trying to restore the trust: **Army Chief**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/BEIJING

With India and China reaching an agreement on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday said as of now "we are trying to restore the trust" and both sides will have to "reassure each other" to achieve this.

His assertion in New Delhi came a day after India announced an agreement with China on patrolling. China on Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

It means both the armies will now resume patrolling in their respective zones as was the practice before May 2020. Following the Galwan

clash in June that year, both sides deployed a large number of troops on the LAC leading to heightened

Hoax threats leave financial scars RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI bomb

While there seems to be no end to the menace of threat messages targeting Indian airlines, as about 80 more flights, operating on domestic and international routes, received fresh threats from Monday night to Tuesday, it has also had a huge financial impact on the airline operators who already under financial stress, operations stakeholders like security forces logistics and regulatory bodies to under take the drill to ensure safe flight.

According to estimates from aviation industry sources, it costs about Rs one to three Crores, on an average, to undertake the security drills and the burden is on all the stakeholders government to the private

agencies. Which means given the total of 180 flights that have undergone the process after the hoax calls an additional burden of about Rs 300 Crore. "Following the laid down

protocols, relevant authorities were immediately alerted, and all security procedures strictly adhered to, as per guidance from the regulatory authorities and security agencies," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement. Protocols for the Bomb

Assessment Threat Committee (BTAC), is convened in the event of a bomb threat call to an aircraft or airport, to tackle the spate of the ongoing "random" Internet-based threats being made to various Indian airlines.

On Monday night, the BTAC that assembled at seven airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Pune, Mangalore, Bengaluru and Kozhikode



More CRPF schools get bomb threats

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Days after the crude bomb blast outside the Central Reserves Police (CRPF) school in Delhi's Rohini area, an email threat was received at the central agency's school Telangana's Hyderabad on Tuesday threatening to blow up five schools across the country. However, official sources later confirmed that the email turned out to be a hoax.

According to police sources, an email was received in a CRPF school in Medchal near Hyderabad threatening to blow up three CRPF schools in Delhi and Hyderabad, and Kendriya Vidyalayas within the forces' office premises in other cities.

The three CRPF schools include two in Delhi

declared as "hoax or nonspecific" bomb threat messages sent to 30 flights belonging to three carriers -Air India, Vistara and Indigo. The threat was assessed as "non specific" as it was found that one X handle posted "bombs onboard"

Delhi is most polluted city: IQAir

(Rohini and Dwarka), one in Hyderabad (Telangana); while the two Kendriya

paramilitary forces' office premises at Panchkula (Haryana) and Rampur (Uttar Pradesh). Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dwarka, Ankit Singh said, "The CRPF school in Dwarka did not receive any

Vidyalayas are within the

message or mail regarding the same. However, the message was shared to us by

messages for 10 flights each of these three carriers between 10.46 pm and 11.42 pm. The protocol undertaken by the BTAC has been tweaked and a fine assessment, acting on a set of new 'red flags', is being undertaken now, the

Kalyan Banerjee ko gussa kyon aata hai?



lembers of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill leave after a meeting at Parliament House Annexe, in New Delhi, Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

n a bizarre incident, All India Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament Kalyan Banerjee created a ruckus during a crucial Waqf meeting in Parliament on Tuesday where he smashed a glass water bottle and hurled towards the Chair. Banerjee injured himself and jeopardised safety of other

Parliamentarians who had gathered for a discussion on the Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill. Banerjee was suspended for one day the parliamentary committee on the Waqf Bill after his theatrics. He later emerged with a bandaged hand, escorted by fellow

Sources at the meeting said the TMC MP smashed a glass water bottle and threw it towards panel

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), during a heated exchange of words with BJP's Abhijit Gangopadhyay, a former Calcutta High Court judge. This is the second time Banerjee has made news for

had mimicked a presiding officer of the Parliament. The act was condemned by the President of India, Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues. According to sources, the

panel voted nine-eight on a resolution moved by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey to suspend Banerjee for a day for his choice of words for the panel chairman, and for smashing a glass bottle and throwing it towards Pal. meeting concluded, Banerjee refused to talk to reporters about

the incident. After being administered first aid, Banerjee was seen being escorted back to the meeting room by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Ówaisi and AAP leader Sanjay Singh.



Officials at the blast site of Ordnance Factory Jabalpur (OFJ), in Jabalpur district

Blast at Jabalpur Ordnance Factory, many injured

More than a dozen workers were injured in a powerful blast at the Ordnance Factory Khamaria in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Tuesday morning, an official said. The blast took place at around 9.45 am when explosive material was being filled in the bombs at a refilling section of the factory, the official from the establishment

Among the injured persons, two were in a serious condition and admitted to a hospital. Another worker was missing and was possibly trapped under the debris of the section in which the blast took place,

The blast was so powerful that it was even heard by people a few kilometres away, as per eyewitnesses. The Ordnance Factory Khamaria is one of the major ammunition production units under the Department of Defence Production.

More than a dozen workers received injuries in the blast and efforts were on to locate a missing worker, who was possibly trapped under the debris of the building, the official said. A probe has been ordered into the incident and the exact cause behind the blast will be known after completion of the investigation, he said. Fire brigade and security staff of the factory launched a relief and rescue operation, the

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

 $E^{\mathrm{ven}\ \mathrm{before}\ \mathrm{the}\ \mathrm{arrival}\ \mathrm{of}}_{\mathrm{winter},\ \mathrm{Delhi}\ \mathrm{along}\ \mathrm{with}}$ several cities of north India is gasping for clean air as air has degraded to alarming levels over the past few days. Based on the real time data, Delhi ranks top on list of most polluted cities in the country. It was the second-most polluted city in the world on Tuesday, a live ranking on IQAir's a Swiss based air quality monitoring website indicated, after only Lahore in neighbouring Pakistan. AQI in Lahore recorded 394.

A layer of smog engulfed Delhi surrounding areas, including Noida, on Tuesday morning, even as the air quality plummeted to the 'very poor' category at 327, followed by Haryana's Jind where the AQI stood at 311.

Meanwhile, out monitoring stations in the National Capital, 26 are in the red zone, with the AQI recorded in the "very poor" category, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board. These stations



A smog as air quality deteriorates, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Jahangirpuri, Mundka, Narela, Patparganj, Rohini, Shadipur, Sonia Vihar, Wazirpur, Alipur, Ashok Vihar, Aya Nagar, Burari, Mandir Marg, and others. A thick layer of fog was seen in areas like Anand Vihar, Kalkaji, Nehru Akshardham Place, and Temple, as Delhi's air quality continued to deteriorate. Factors contributing

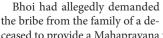
significantly to pollution include transportation, stubble burning, and dust pollution, emissions transportation accounting for approximately 11.45 percent of Delhi's air pollution, according to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management.

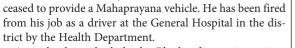
As the air pollution in Delhi reaches the red zone, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday wrote letters to the transport ministers of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, urging them to ensure no diesel buses from their states plied to the national capital in view of GRAP II restrictions in place. Rai announced a slew of measures, including enhanced water sprinkling to control road dust, use of dust suppressants and deployment of additional traffic personnel to ease traffic congestion,

Bribery charge 'Kansa' suspended from govt job

RAKESH JOSHI BARGARH

Hrishikesh Bhoi, who acts as King Kansa in the famous Dhanu Yatra in Bargarh, was suspended from his government job on Tuesday on the charge of demanding





A case has been also lodged at Bhatli police station against him on the request of the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO). All eyes would now on the next Dhanu Yatra festival to see if he is given another chance to perform the role of Kansa. Bhoi has been accused of taking a bribe of Rs 3,000 from the family of the deceased to transport body from Bada Sahajbahal village in Gaisilet block. Further investigation was on, said Bargarh CDMO Dr Nirupama Sarangi.

Colleges closed for 3 days

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government on Tuesday announced that colleges and universities in 14 districts of the State would remain closed for three days starting from October 23 due to the impending cyclonic storm 'Dana'.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Deoranjan Kumar Singh apprised the Higher Education Secretary the decision regarding the closure of the colleges and universities in the vulnerable districts from October 23 to October 25. All the colleges and universities in Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Baleswar, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Angul, Khordha, Nayagargh and Cuttack districts would remain closed as a precautionary measure in view of the impending severe cyclonic storm, the SRC said.

Cyclone Dana

Focus on evacuation, 250 relief centres ready

▲ he Odisha Government has taken measures to deal with any emergency situation in view of the cyclonic storm Dana, informed Revenue and Disaster Management Minister, Suresh Pujari on Tuesday.

A coordination meeting was held with the district Collectors, he said. "A total of 250 relief centres

have been reviewed by officials and kept ready. Besides, additional 500 temporary shelters have been made ready including schools and colleges. Those people who will be evacuated will be provided cooked food and medical services. A list of pregnant women has also been prepared by the Health Department. Women, children and elderly persons are being advised to shift to safer places in the affected areas. Women police officers will be deployed at relief centres," said Pujari.

The minister further informed that as usually many people do not vacate their homes apprehending thefts, "we have decided to intensify police patrolling in vulner-

able areas". "Adequate stocks of ration have been kept ready along with polythene and other materials. Red alert has been sounded in all ports and the fishermen have returned. We

were tracking seven trawlers

since yesterday and the process of their return has started. The government is working in a mission mode to ensure zero casualty," he

According to the minister, it has been observed by various agencies that there is some deviation in the cyclone's projected path in the past. Hence, keeping in view the probable deviation, the government is taking all precautionary measures after reviewing the past instances.

"We have identified such vulnerable districts. Red alert has been issued for nine districts and orange warning for heavy rain in some districts,

PM to Visit Odisha on

To launch Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Yojana, other schemes

PNS BHUBANESWAR Prime Minister Narendra

Modi is likely to visit Odisha on November 15 and launch a number of schemes in the Official sources said Modi

would arrive at the Jharsuguda airport by a special aircraft and proceed to Rourkela to attend a programme on the occasion of the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda

The day is also observed as the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to acknowledge the cultural heritage and contributions of tribal communities.

Modi is also slated to launch a 'Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Yojana' of the State



This apart, the PM will lay foundation-stone of the Odia

Asmita Kendra and hostels for around 450 primary schools in the State. Notably, ST students will

receive a one-time financial assistance of Rs 5,000 under the Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Yojana. The scheme aims to check the dropout rate among the ST students studying in Classes-IX and X in government and aided schools. ST students passing out from Class-VIII and joining in Class-IX and from Class-XI to Class-XI will receive the assistance under the scheme.

Cyclone fear triggers panic buying Int'l Sri Jagannath Fest in city from Nov 8

Food Supplies officials raid godowns

PNS CUTTACK

The fear of possible Cyclone Dana has triggered panic among people who are resorting to buying essential com-

This has resulted in a noticeable surge in the prices of vegetables and other kitchen essentials at various markets across the State.

modities in large quantities.

Potato, which was being sold at Rs 35 a kilogram till Monday, is currently priced at Rs 50 while onion price has reached Rs 70 at Chhatra Bazaar in Cuttack.



With reports of illegal hoarding and black-marketing surfacing, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department officials woke up from slumber and, of late, conducted raids at the godowns in Chhatra Bazaar.

"After taking the feedback of people, we found potato is being sold at Rs 50 per kg in the retail market. Now, we are at

the wholesale market and sought a detailed list to ascertain the cause of sudden price rise," a departmental official

Asked if the raid was carried out a bit late, the official said, "A team visited the market yesterday and inspected the situation. We have also warned the traders not to hike the price of the potato fur-

The official also urged the people to refrain from panic buying which can help check the price of the potato.

The official further said, "The maximum retail rate of potato is Rs 40 per kilo. Action will be taken against those involved in black-marketing." Bhumi Pujan held

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $T_{
m he}$ International Sri Jagannath Festival has been planned to be held from November 8 to 13 here to spread the culture of Mahaprabhu Sri Jagannath worldwide.

Bandita Pal, Corporator of Ward No. 37 and her husband, social worker Arjun Behera. were inducted as Karta for the five- day Panchkundiya world peace Mahayagyna of Lord Shri Jagannath to be held on the occasion.

A Bhumi Pujan of the land where the mahotsav will be held was organised recently where Minister Law and Excise Pruthiraj Harichandan

joined as chief guest and MLA Babu Singh attended as guest of honour. Besides, Babaji Amrutananda Dasmaharaj, Odisha Sansad Security Mission president Bishnugiriji Maharaj and Dr Harekrishna Satapathy joined the function as guests and created a spiritual atmosphere.

Chairman, International Sri Jagannath Festival Committee Jagannath Pradhan, secretary Pradeep Kumar Rouray, president Dillip Srichandan, advisor Major Dr Kalpana Das, adviser Corporator Amarendra Jena, Core Committee

With focus on

PNS BHUBANESWAR

sustainable devpt

Under the aegis of the

Odisha Development Initia-

tive (ODI), the Odisha Vikash

Conclave (OVC) will be held

on October 23 here to explore

specific pathways for a trans-

formative Odisha by 2036,

with a focus on population

dynamics and sustainable de-

The forum will facilitate

discussions among develop-

ment actors about the impacts

of demographic change on

various sectors and develop-

ment indicators, develop an

action plan to mitigate poten-

tial challenges and harness

opportunities arising from the

demographic transition, iden-

velopment.

population

dynamics,

Manranian Barik, Neelima Pal, Laxman Swain, Prakash Srichandan, coordinator Ranjit Karmi, Aditya Padhi, Sonalisa Mohapatra, Deepak Chaudhary and Arun Das helped to make the programme successful. Prayers and sankirtan were performed.

tions (CSOs), corporate social

responsibility (CSR) bodies,

academic institutions, and

other development agents in

driving sustainable develop-

ment and positive change in

Odisha, present the analytical

report, "Odisha @2036: De-

mography and Development,"

which provides insights into

the State's demographic

trends and their implications.

are expected to attend, includ-

ing representatives from the

Government, civil society, cor-

porate sectors, academia, re-

searchers, and the Panchayati

The conclave will act as a

platform for setting a for-

ward-looking agenda, leading

to the development of a com-

prehensive roadmap for the

future. The strategic roadmap

will help shape policies and

initiatives, paving the way for

Raj Institutions (PRI).

Around 200 participants

Odisha Vikash Conclave

to be held today

Lalit Das OSSSC Chairman

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Retired IPS officer Dr Lalit Das has been appointed as the Chairman of Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC).

Besides, Retired IAS officer

Dr Uddhaba Chandra Maihi and retired OAS officer Saroj Kumar Mishra have been appointed as Members of the OSSSC.

The appointments were announced by the Chief

Minister's Office on Tuesday.

Keonjhar Baitarani Basin CE in Vig net



Raids at 10 places PNS CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Tuesday conducted simultaneous raids at 10 places associated with Kailash Chandra Sahu, Chief Engineer (CE) of Keonjhar Baitarani Basin, on the charge of amassing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Several teams of the anticorruption agency carried out searches of the properties of Sahu in Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Jajpur and Keonjhar including his ancestral house.

According to Vigilance sources, as many as 36 plots, three flats, a three-tier buildand a vehicle were found during the raids.

Sahu is currently in Bhubaneswar. Till the last report came in, search operations were underway.

Raids were underway at: Residential flat on 3rd floor

Cyclone time

As tourists have started

leaving Puri as per the advice

of the government due to the

impending Cyclone Dana,

some travel agents and taxi

operators, taking undue ad-

vantage of the situation, are

charging exorbitant fares

A day before, the adminis-

tration had requested the

tourists to leave Puri.

Jagannath devotees were

asked not to visit Puri on Oc-

"As per the instructions of

the local administration, we

are leaving. But the travel

agencies are now demanding

excess fare which is not accept-

able. They are taking advan-

tage of the crisis," rued a tour-

from them.

tober 24 and 25.

Travel agencies charge

excess fare from tourists

of Jagannath Mansion at Bhoi Nagar Unit No.9, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar

Residential flat on 2nd floor, Maa Tarini Apartment, Jagabandhu Mohapatra Complex at Dolipur, Vyasanagar, dist Jajpur.

Flat on 3rd floor, Block-A of Dharma Heaven Apartment at Puri Sahar Unit-3, Mangalaghat, Puri

Shop on 1st floor of Jagabandhu Bhawan at Dolipur, Unit-8, Vyasanagar, Jajpur Road.

Triple-storied residential building at Vyasanagar

Two store houses at Begana, PS-Korei, dist Jajpur Residential govt. quarter at Keonihar town

Office chamber at Keonjhar

Paternal house at native village at Ramkapur, PS-Mahanga, dist Cuttack

House of relative at Banahara, Po-Bodamundai, PS-Salepur, dist Cuttack

Ecosavers to launch 'Swachha Mo Gaon' drive

In December, for protection of environment

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Ecosavers Youth Network will launch a monthlong 'Swachha Mo Gaon' campaign in December. It was decided in the State Level Workshop of Ecosavers held here. The People's Cultural Cen-

tre (PECUC) in collaboration with AEIN organised the workshop for environment protection. Inaugurating the workshop, PECUC secretary Ranjan Kumar Mohanty appreciated various innovative works like preparation of bird nests, building check dams to manage water flow, waste management and plantation etc undertaken by Ecosavers



Youth Network members.

He further said the youth are the catalyst for bringing a new dawn; so, they should be well equipped and prepared to take such tremendous responsibility on their shoulders.

Executive Director of PECUC Anuradha Mohanty gave the welcome address and shared the purpose of the work-

shop. President, Innerwheel Club, Bhubaneswar Pratima Nalini Pati appreciated the work of youth groups and said youth leadership is very crucial for building a sustainable and developed future.

Secretary, State Environment Society Prof Jaya Krushna Panigrahi spoke about climate change, environmental protec-

tion and the role of youth and also shared some useful tips planting trees, adopting sustainable eating habits, etc.

and strategies for adopting sustainable practices in everyday life such as reducing waste, conserving energy, More than 50 youth from different districts of Odisha par-

a transformative Odisha by tify the roles of the Government, civil society organiza-Now, Santali added to Google Translate service

Oogle has officially added the Santali language with its Olchiki script to its Google Translate service, marking a significant milestone for the Santali-speaking community.

The inclusion of Santali comes after sustained efforts since 2019 by a group of dedicated digital activists, including R Ashwani Banjan Murmu, Ramjit Tudu, Prasant Hembram, Fagu Baskey, Samu Tudu, Bijendra Hansda, Premchand Murmu, Bodi Baski, Aryan Murmu, Maino Tudu, Durga Soren, and many other independent volunteers.

The addition of Santali to Google Translate is seen as a

crucial step toward expanding digital content in this marginalized language, which is spoken by millions but often underrepresented on digital platforms. With its inclusion, Santali speakers now have a valuable tool to access and share information in their native language, contributing to the preservation and

Members of the Santali community have expressed their joy and pride in the achievement, as it paves the way for increased visibility and digital representation. Many hope this will lead to further inclusion of indigenous languages on global platforms.

growth of their cultural heri-

'Sambalpuri Ikat artisans weaving magic

Book 'The Masterpiece' by Sarita Mishra released

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Sambalpuri Ikats have the master strokes of the master craftsmen who mastermind the masterpiece. The Ikats weavers have been creating magic for generations and they do not weave clothes, rather they weave our dreams," said the speakers at the release of the book "Sambalpuri Ikat: The Masterpiece" by Dr Sarita Mishra

SP Choudhury reviewed the book and stated that one of the best kept secrets of Odisha has been portrayed and revealed

to the world by the author. Guest of honour Sovan Krishna Sahu and Santh Kabir awardee Ramakrishna



handlooms and Sambalpuri Ikat clothes are closely associated with daily rituals of Lord Jagannath.

Sahitya Akademi awardees Gourahari Das and Dash Benhur equivocally stated that despite its magnificent artistic work and quality, loSambalpuri Ikat works has not been made as popular as other handlooms like Kanchipuram and Banarasi sarees. The book will popularize the handloom works of Odisha and will also play a key role in propagating the form of art to various parts

Author Dr Mishra welcomed the guests and expressed her intention and motivation behind penning the book. She also expressed her gratitude to the persons / institutions who have been part of her journey in completing the book.

Revolutionising rainfall forecasting in Odisha

With Deep Learning: Enhanced Accuracy in Real-Time Predictions

The speed of the tidal wave in Puri sea has increased. The lifeguards are making people aware to be away from the sea by using warning sirens.

"Locals of this land of Lord

Jagannath should not be such

inhumane when a crisis situa

tion is knocking at the door.

haven't seen such behaviour

among people of any other re-

ligious place in the country,"

said another disappointed

"Lifeguards have been kept alert at many places near Puri sea beach. The climate has started changing and the speed of the sea tides has also increased. The wind speed is also increasing. People are gradually becoming aware about the situation. We will put up red flags in the sea shore," said a lifeguard in Puri.

PNS BHUBANESWAR

A study titled "Augmenting the Real-Time Rainfall Forecast Skills over Odisha Using Deep Learning Techniques, published in 'Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment', addresses the challenges posed by complex and non-linear weather pat-

A further compelling illustration is regarding the benefits of employing an advanced hybrid technology (i.e., the integration of conventional physics-based dynamical models with artificial intelligence frameworks) to improve rainfall forecasting at the district scale.

The study has been focused on the State of Odisha. This hybrid technology serves as the guiding beacon for a new era of real-time forecasting technology at district level. India's monsoon season is

heavily influenced by major rain-bearing systems formed over the Bay of Bengal-the monsoon low pressure (LPS), Monsoon Depressions (MDs) and Deep Depressions (DDs). These systems move in northwest-ward direction toward the mainland and account for approximately 60% of the seasonal precipitation. Odisha, situated along the eastern coast of India, is regarded as a gateway to these systems towards the central Indian region. Consequently, it is susceptible to these weather patterns, necessitating the development of precise rainfall forecasts for the region's calamity preparedness policymaking.

However, predicting rainfall with high accuracy has long been a challenge due to the intricate nature of atmospheric processes, especially at the district level with adequate leadtime (96h). The research team has now introduced two deep learning architectures, U-Net (+A) and KU-Net (+A) (Attention-based Kernelized U-Net

Architecture), to improve the spatial and categorical accuracy of rainfall intensity predictions. These artificial intelligence models (i.e. ML and DL) were trained on retrospective high-resolution rainfall forecasts generated from physics based dynamical models (WRF) over the state of Odisha at the district scale (3km) and tested for two real time cases, i.e., 1 MD and 1DD for the year 2023.

Key Highlights:

The proposed KU-Net (+A) model demonstrated remarkable improvements in districtscale rainfall forecasting in two different cases. When tested, the model reduced the Mean Absolute Error (MAE) to less than 8 mm up to Day 4 for Case 1 (MD) and to less than 15 mm for Case 2 (DD). In comparison, the WRF model showed MAEs of 25 mm and 36 mm for the same cases, respectively.

The results demonstrated that the DL model has consistently outperformed the traditional physics-based model (WRF) in different rainfall categories with lead time up to 96 hours (day 4). Comparatively for heavy rainfall category DL (WRF) forecast accuracy are 85.7% (52.5%) and very heavy rainfall it is 87% (56.8%) at the district scale.

These findings not only underscore the superiority of deep learning models over traditional deterministic models like Weather Research and Forecast (WRF) but also highlight the real-world application potential of these DL models in enhancing early warning systems, improving disaster preparedness, and informing strategic administrative decisions. The improved forecasting accuracy can help district-scale planners and policymakers prepare for potential flooding, manage water resources, agricultural planning and disaster preparedness to minimise the losses.

"We have positioned ourselves as pioneers in the development of this innovative next generation forecasting technology," said Dr Sandeep Pattnaik of the IIT Bhubaneswar.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements



Fake agency defrauds job aspirants of Rs 3 cr

Under the plea of providing jobs in Middle East

SIBDAS KUNDU ■ BALESWAR

Several job aspirants alleged that they were deceived by a fake placement agency at Jaleswar, which bungled at least Rs 3 crore under the plea of providing jobs.

The agency, Manpower Consultancy, which was opened at the Hospital Road,

Jaleswar, assured of providing jobs in overseas countries, mainly in the Middle East, including Iraq, Turkey and Jordan etc and collected Rs 1 lakh from each aspirant in the name of preparing Visa and flight fare.

The fake placement agency later closed its office and the aspirants after learning that they were duped, lodged a complaint with the local po-

The aggrieved youth said

the agency not only collected money from job aspirants of Odisha but also from neighbouring West Bengal and Jharkhand.

One of the victims hailing from Kharibandh under Balugaon of Puri district alleged that after learning about lucrative overseas jobs through social media, he approached the office bearers and they asked him to pay Rs 1 lakh. After bargaining, he paid Rs 75,000 to them and

received an air ticket and Visa. Later on, he could learn that they were fake. When he came to the office, he found only one lady attendant was present there and asked her about the three officials of the company. She asked him to come after two days. Later, when he went to the office, he found it was locked and the phones of the office bearers were switched off. At least 80 aspirants were entrapped by the fraudsters, it

2 youths from Gajapati crack OCS

T we tribal youths from Gajapati district cracked the Odisha Civil Services Exams 2024 bringing glory to the district. They are Kalinga Kumar Pujari and John Badaraita. Kalinga belongs to Gadar

village of Chelagada panchayat of RUdayagiri block.He is a BTech. He was working as Local Fund Auditor and posted at Rayagada.

He also got Assistant Sectional Officer in Secretariat, but he did not join because he wanted to serve for the people at the grassroots. He prepared



for OAS and at last achieved his goal.

Similarly, John Badabhuyan belongs to an interior village of Regum under Lailai panchayat of Rayagada block. He is a Post Graduate in Sociology from University. He prepared for OAS and was successful

Bhubaneswar: Tapas Kumar Pattanayak is set to become Director (HR) of the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). Sources said his name has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). Pattanayak is now serving as Executive Director (HR) at Refineries Headquarters

of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). SBI donates sanitary pad machines to RD Varsity

Tapas Pattanayak to be NALCO Director (HR)

INBRIEF

Bhubaneswar: The State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle under Corporate Social Responsibility, has donated four sani



tary pad vending machines and incinerators to the Rama Devi Women's University. In the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Parvati Parida, SBI Chief General Manager Dinesh Pruthi symbolically handed over these machines to Vice-Chancellor Prof Aparajita Chowdhury. Over 500 students and staff members of the university were present.

Jindal Panther Cement launches grinding unit

Bhubaneswar: The Jindal Panther Cement (JPC) has commissioned its first cement grinding unit with a capacity of 1.5 MTPA at Angul. This facility, which will utilise approximately 1 MTPA of blast furnace slag from the nearby JSPL's Angul integrated steel plant, is designed to operate at the industry's lowest clinker factor, marking a significant step in the company's decarbonisation strategy. JPC aims to become a leader in low-carbon cement production through this move.

Vedanta hosts IIM Sambalpur students

Jharsuguda: The Vedanta Aluminium recently hosted students from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur as part of its Campus Connect initiative. The visit offered the



students a unique opportunity to explore Vedanta's state-ofthe-art operations and gain insights into the aluminium manufacturing process. They also learned how sustainable businesses are run on a global scale.

1 dies, 3 of Andhra family critical as car hits tree

Malkangiri: A person was killed and three other members of a family were critically injured after the car by which they were travelling hit a tree in the Chirakonda area of Malkangiri district on Tuesday. The family was on their way to Narsinghpatna in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Prakash Khila of Murlageda village in the Gudem area of Andhra Pradesh was taking his two daughters and two sons to a residential school at Narsinghpatna. The mishap took place when the driver lost control over the wheels.

Letter urges CM 'Instal freedom fighter Narayan

Birabar bust in JSpur'

he State Culture Departeminent personalities to instal their statues at various locations across the State. However, the name of the Kujanga Gandhi and eminent freedom fighter of Jagatsinghpur late Narayan Birabar Samanta is

The incident has sparked unhappiness among the people of Kujanga and Paradip areas.

Eminent poet and social activist Pitambar Tarai from Kujanga has shot off a letter to Chief Minister Mohan Charana Majhi seeking to instal a statue of the late Samanta in Jagatsinghpur district.

that late Samanta after being inspired by Gandhiji had quit studying and joined the freedom movement of the country and led the move-

ment in coastal Odisha during the pre-independence period. Samanta is treated as a ment has finalized a list of contemporary freedom fighter like Gopabandhu Naba Krushna Choudhury, Choudhury, Sarala Devi and Dr Harekrushna Mahatab.

During post-independence days he was elected as MLA and occupied the Deputy Speaker post in the Odisha Assembly. He is remembered for his contribution to the establishment of the Paradip Port in the midsixties. Following his efforts the first river port was established at Chaumuhani near Paradip and he impressed the then Odisha CM Dr Mahatab for setting up the

stallation of a statue of late Samant at Kujanga or Paradip to ensure that the legacies of Samanta remain alive for future generations.

M'bhanj girl donates scholarship

Her first-ever reward for superb performance in Class III exam PNS BARIPADA

money to CMRF

An11-year-old girl-student of Mayurbhanj has donated to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund her entire amount of scholarship money that she had received for her superb academic performance in Class-III exam.

The noble gesture of Sushree Parirupa Mohanta, daughter of teacher Tapan Mohanta Kumar Balabhadrapur village in Kundabai Gram Panchayat of Udala Block in Mayurbhanj, is now being widely appreciated and admired throughout the

Parirupa had emerged topper at the Kaptipada sub-divisional level in the 2022 Class III scholarship examination. For this excellent performance of hers, she had received a cash reward of Rs 2,400 only a few days ago. This was the firstever earning in life for the small child. However, the amount,



she felt, should be given away for a good cause. Parirupa translated her wish into a reality, when Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi recently came to Baripada on an official visit and she could give away the money in his hands and informed him of her desire to utilise the money for the depressed and distressed people through the CM Relief

Parirupa, it may be pointed out, has been a good singer and speaker ever since her early childhood. She has even got her name entered into the India Book of Records for flawlessly reciting all the 700 shlokas of the Geeta within an hour and standing first in an all-Odisha Geeta recitation

Many Dalit, tribal lads OCS successful in R'gada

This time all the Odisha Civil Services achievers of Rayagada are either tribals or Dalits, who come from hinterlands of Rayagada like Kashipur, Ramanaguda, Gunupur and other interior

Interestingly enough, one of these tribal lads named Sunil Sabar comes from Lanjia Soura tribe, a primarily vulnerable Tribal Group(PVTG) ordinarily inhabiting on Putasing hills of Gunupur block. He comes from Patili village of Talana GP of Gunupur block. Sunil, 1st OAS from this PVTG community, is ranked 629 in his 2nd at-

After his graduation, he served in Department of Post and is now working as a cashier in Koraput Central Cooperative(KCC) Bank.

Pankaj Kumar Majhi hailing from Kashipur is in the rank of 662. He is the son of Bibhisan Majhi, former MLA of Kashipur and now is working as a police officer. Similarly Laksheswari Majhi from Mailiguda, Kashipur beams



Sunil Kumar Kilaka

with rank 647. Having the rank

of 450, Maheswar Palaka(SC)

from Bhujabala village of

Kolnara block is now working

as a lecturer in Brahmapur

City College. Anadi Charan

Ramanaguda block, who is

presently continuing as a se-

nior assistant in District Ag-

riculture office, has a rank of

Debendra Sabara from

Tikarapada village of Ukamba

GP and Binod Sabara fro

Titimiri village of Gunupur

Antarjholi village

coming from

Binod Sabara



block are in the list of success-

ful candidates. Debendra ear-

lier also succeeded in OCS ex-

ams; but as his rank was low,

he joined as Sub-Treasury Of-

ficer. He appeared again and

excelled. He was a topper in

Class-X during 2010 in

Kujendri High School of

Ramanaguda block and was

felicitated by the then Chief

Minister. He has a rank of 563.

other tribal lad named Binod

Sabara from Titimiri village

has been successful in his third

attempt. Binod is working as

With a rank of 600, yet an-





Block Social Security Officer in Padmapur block. Sunil Kumar Kilaka is the

son of a retired school teacher named Madhab Chandra Kilaka from Kusumgudi village of Kuragada GP in Muniguda block. He is having rank 481 and working in Khadagpur railways. Diparani Behera(SC-W), daughter of Ramesh Chandra Behera, having rank 437 comes from Hatipathar road, Rayagada. She is, at present,

working as a junior assistant

in the Revenue Department.

Uncertainty over J'suguda pipe water project

Despite Rs 450cr spent, 250 villages out of 338 yet to get supply RAJKUMAR SHARMA **JHARSUGUDA**

A mega pipe water project, launched in 2019 to ensure piped water supply to rural areas in Jharsuguda district, remains incomplete, with over 250 villages still waiting for

The project, aimed at covering 338 villages by December 2022, has so far covered only 82 villages, leaving 256 without water. Despite the setbacks, officials hope to provide piped water to 43 more villages by December 2024.

The project, constructed at a cost of Rs 450 crore, includes Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in three locations across the district. The largest facilities are situated in Kusmail and Tilia, while another plant near Hansamura



-Katapalli in Jharsuguda block is still awaiting an electricity connection. Officials have applied for the connection and expect to begin supplying water on a trial basis by mid-November.

Currently, 60 villages in 16 panchayats under Lakhanpur block are receiving piped water from the Kusmail plant, with 19 more villages expected to be connected soon. The Tilia plant has supplied water to 22 villages out of a targeted 65, with plans to reach 30 more villages by the end of 2024, according to RWSS Executive Engineer Dillip

The Hansamura -Katapalli WTP, once operational, is expected to serve 194 villages across four blocks. Additionally, the Sambalpur District Rengali Mega Project will provide water to five villages in Malda and Patrapali panchayats, while a separate project is being planned for Kudopalli panchayat.

The delays have been attributed to issues such as forest clearance, contractor inefficiencies, and theft of materials from project sites.

Swachhata Pakhwada NTPC Talcher holds series of events



TALCHER

▲ he NTPC Talcher Thermal reaffirmed its commitment to a cleaner and greener environment by organising a vibrant Swachhata Pakhwada from September 14 to October 2. The initiative aligned with the national "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", fostered a collective spirit of cleanliness and community engagement.

During the two-week-long campaign, Talcher Thermal organized a variety of activities aimed at raising awareness

about cleanliness, both within the plant premises and in nearby communities. These activities included the distribution of sanitation supplies in local schools to promote hygiene among students, a walkathon to encourage community participation in cleanliness efforts, competitions at government schools to inspire students to think critically about cleanliness, and Nukkad Nataks (street plays) performed in major market areas to creatively engage the public on the importance of maintaining clean surroundings. Additionally, a special Safai

Mitra Suraksha Shivir was conducted, where cleaning staff were made aware of health-related issues, and a special health check-up was organized for them.

Head of Project and CGM at Talcher Thermal, Vijay Chand emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Swachhata is not just an initiative but a responsibility for each one of us." The Pakhwada concluded with a large-scale plantation drive.

missing from it.

In his letter, Tarai divulged

port at that location. Tarai demanded the in-

Dhenkanal Lakshmi Puja

Heritage walkers explore Chandi Medhas' history gradually increased and in the formation about the history trail under the aegis of DHW. meantime, the Kaibalya Baof their respective "Chandi able small and big business

Nearly 50 heritage enthusiasts, including young students from Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Dhenkanal Autonomous College, thronged the Gajalaxmi Puja pandals and explored the rich traditions behind the "Chandi Medhas" or silver tableaus.

Senior members Dhenkanal Heritage Walks (DHW) and members from other heritage walk groups were also part of the visiting pandal hoppers under the leadership of convener Prof Suresh Prasad Mishra with

According to historians,

"Chandi Medha" was first in 1959 with Maudamani Rajalakshmi Pratishthan at Meenabazar. However, since it was stolen in 1976, the newlymade one has been used in 160 kg of silver since 2004. After the Chaudhury Bazar Durga Medha in Cuttack, Meena Bazar Laxmi Medha in Dhenkanal is the second oldest "Chandi Medha" in Odisha and the first "Chandi Medha" of Dhenkanal.

After the Meenabazar "Chandi Medha", its appeal

zaar near the Siddha Balaram Temple got one tableau of 140 kg in 2016. The historic town got its third "Chandi Medha" in 2018 at the Gudianali Puja pandal weighing 125 kg. In the same year 2018, Ganesh Bazaar, touted as the largest market in Dhenkanal, got the heaviest "Chandi Medha" in the State with a huge 350 kg of the silver tableau. The fifth "Chandi Medha" was introduced at Lakshmi Bazaar with 150 kg of silver in 2022. This year Jubilee Town-II, Deulshahi Puja Mandap has built a beautiful "Chandi

Medha" of 70 kg. Early in the morning on Sunday, the marchers first

went around Gudianali and

then Kaibalya Bazar, Jubilee Town II, Ganesh Bazar, Laxmi Bazar and saw the "Chandi Medha" at Meena Bazar. At each market, the members of the respective Puja committees welcomed the heritage enthusiasts and provided inMedhas" Dhenkanal Gajalakshmi

Puja has a unique charm. For 11 days, the 6-km stretch from College Bypass to Korian Bypass the entire region erupts with the celebration and gets decked up with beautiful gates and dazzling lights. On both sides of the road, the puja pandals of various bazaars have the idols of Goddess Lakshmi installed and Lakshmi puja is performed in an emotional, eloquent atmosphere. Dhenkanal town is packed with lakhs of pilgrims from across the district and

establishments as well as in various puja pandals, a devotional atmosphere is created across Dhenkanal town with the sound of the priest chanting Vedic mantras. This year, 36 puja pandals are offering prayers to Goddess Lakshmi. Senior educationists Dr

Bhawani Shankar Mishra, Dr Mrinal Chatterjee, president, Dhenkanal Journalists Association Prasanna Kumar Patnaik, senior member of Cuttack Heritage Walks Bishwaranjan Dehuri and members from other heritage walks groups were present.

India values the close cooperation within BRICS says PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

India values close coopera-tion within Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa(BRICS)which has emerged as an important platform for dialogue and discussion on a range of key issues concerning global developmental agenda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. Modi made this assertion in a statement before embarking on a two-day visit to the Russian city of Kazan to attend the 16th summit of the BRICS grouping. "The expansion of BRICS with

sivity and agenda for the global good," he said. Being hosted by Russia, the summit is being seen as an attempt by non-Western powers to project their clout amid the conflict in Ukraine and the escalating situation in

the addition of new members

last year has added to its inclu-

West Asia. Modi is set hold a series of bilat-



eral meetings including with Russian President Vladimir Putin and a likely meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the margins of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa). It will be the first summit of the grouping after it was expanded at its summit in Johannesburg last year.

"India values the close cooperation within BRICS which has emerged as an important platform for dialogue and discussion on issues concerning the global developmental agenda,

departure statement. Modi said his visit to Kazan will further reinforce the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'

reformed multilateralism, cli-

mate change, economic coop-

eration, building resilient sup-

ply chains, promoting cultural

and people to people connect, among others," Modi said in his

between India and Russia. The prime minister visited Moscow in July during which he held summit talks with President Putin.

"Building upon the annual summit held in July 2024 in Moscow, my visit to Kazan will further reinforce the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia," Modi said.

"I look forward to meeting other leaders from BRICS as well," he said. In a social media post, the Prime Minister said he was looking forward to extensive discussions on a wide range of subjects at the summit. The BRIC, as a formal grouping,

started after the meeting of the leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg in 2006. It was agreed to expand BRIC into BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa in 2010. Last year's expansion was the

first such exercise since 2010. The new members included Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

President Murmu expresses concern over water issues at National Water Awards 2023

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

At the National Water Awards 2023 event here on Tuesday, President Droupadi Murmu gave a clarion call for collective responsibility in safeguarding water resources for future generations as she expressed concern over the critical issue of groundwater depletion and pollution.

Underscoring the alarming trend that threatens both the environment and public health, in her speech, she highlighted the essential role of groundwater in supporting communities and ecosystems, while urging a unified approach to water conservation.

The President emphasised that without immediate and concerted efforts to protect this vital resource, society's growth and sustainability would be at risk.

"Groundwater is not only getting polluted but also déplet-

This is a serious concern," the president said while confer-

ring the National Water Awards 2023 here.

She warned that without conservation efforts, society cannot progress.

Murmu said that all major civilisations have thrived around water bodies, and yet, in modern times, water is often neglected.

"We at times forget the importance of water," she said. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that water is a basic necessity and a fundamental human right for every

A clean and prosperous soci-

ety cannot be built without ensuring access to clean water. The unavailability of water and poor sanitation has a greater impact on the health, food security and livelihood of

the underprivileged. The President pointed out that water conservation is part of our tradition.
"Our ancestors used to build

ponds near villages. They used to build reservoirs in or near temples so that the stored water could be used in case of water shortage.

Unfortunately, we are forget-ting the wisdom of our ances-

tors. Some people have encroached upon reservoirs for personal gain.

This not only affects the availability of water during drought but also creates floodlike situations when there is excessive rainfall," she said. Murmu emphasised the role of the state governments in water management, praising the Ministry of Jal Shakti and minister C R Patil for their dedication to conservation. The president also lauded the winners of the National Water

Awards for their efforts and urged that their best practices be shared widely. The awards, organised by the Department of Water Resources under the Ministry

of Jal Shakti, recognised efforts across nine categories, with Odisha securing the top spot for Best State, followed by . Uttar Pradesh while Gujarat and Puducherry were joint third place.

The National Water Awards started in 2018 to promote water conservation is in line with the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat' (water-sufficient India).

Haryana cracks down on stubble burning, 24 officials suspended for inaction

3,000 cases have been regis-

He said Haryana is taking

steps to control stubble burn-

When asked if strictness is

being done by the authorities

in view of hearing in the Supreme Court, Rana said

every government obeys the

The Supreme Court had

pulled up the Punjab and

Haryana governments over

the non-prosecution of viola-

tors found guilty of stubble

burning while summoning the

state chief secretaries to appear

before it on October 23 for an

Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah

and Augustine George Maish

pointed out "complete insen-

sitivity" on the part of both

states, directing the Commission for Air Quality

Management (CAQM) to take

penal action against both the

government officials for the

failure to take action against

Stubble burning is a major

contributor to the rising pol-

lution levels in the national

With the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) dispensation in Delhi

blaming 'parali' (paddy stub-

ble) burning in BJP-ruled

Haryana as one of the reasons

for poor air quality, Rana said

it is being publicized that

farmer alone is causing pollu-

apex court's orders.

tered against the violators.

ing incidents.

explanation.

the violators.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Haryana's Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department has suspended 24 officials over alleged failure to take adequate steps to prevent stubble burning incidents in their respective areas. An order in this regard was issued on October 20.

While the order mentioned that the officials are suspended on administrative grounds, a senior officer of the department on Tuesday said the action has been taken because of the alleged failure of these officials to prevent stubble burning incidents.

cases were found in their

The officials, who have been placed under suspension, include agriculture inspectors, supervisors and agriculture development officers from nine districts -- Jind, Panipat, Hisar, Kaithal, Karnal, Fatehabad, Kurukshetra, Sonipat and Ambala. When reporters here on

Tuesday asked Haryana's Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana the reason behind suspension of the 24 officials, he said,

"The reason is that stubble should not be burnt." "Where farmers took wrong decision, even if under compulsion, but the decision is wrong," he

"In Delhi, what are the reasons for pollution? How much population is there? A densely populated city will have more

How many airports are there? How much pollution is caused by an aircraft? How much construction work is taking place there? (in Delhi region). There are 28 nullahs (in national capital) which are flowing into Yamuna, pollution is because of that also," he

When asked Delhi is blaming Haryana, Rana said, "AAP is ruling Delhi and Punjab, but they will not say anything to their party ruled dispensation in Punjab.'

Earlier on Sunday, Haryana Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad, who held a review meeting via video conferencing with the district deputy commissioners, to discuss measures to prevent stubble burning across the state, had emphasized strict adherence to the Supreme Court's orders, instructing officials to ensure that incidents of stubble burning are effectively curtailed.

ter Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Congress general secretary and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja demanded that the government fix MSP for stubble and buy it from the farmers. Referring to recent directions of Haryana agriculture department,

Hooda slammed the state government for issuing directions to register FIRs against the farmers found burning crop residue besides imposing restriction on selling crops in mandis through the e-kharid portal for the next two sea-

He also slammed the directions of making a "red mark entry" in farm records of the farmers found burning crop

BJP leader Vijaya Rhatkar takes charge as NCW chairperson

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

Senior BJP leader Vijaya Rahatkar who officially took charge as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday emphasised her commitment to advancing women's rights and ensuring justice for victims of gender-based violence.

In her first address after assuming office, She also promised to build on the commission's ongoing efforts while acknowledging the significant responsibility of the role. "This is a role of great respon-

sibility, and I will strive to fulfill it to the best of my ability,' Rahatkar said, recognising the pressing issues women face today.

Rahatkar, a former head of the Maharashtra Commission for Woman, highlighted two primary goals for her tenure: ensuring that those responsible for crimes against women are held accountable and creating an environment where such offenders fear legal consethat those with this mentality are punished and that a deter-

rent is created," she said underlining that the commission would continue to work toward these objectives.

She also addressed the public's perception of the commission's work, noting that while not all of its efforts are visible, the NCW remains committed to pushing forward on its commitment. "Not everything comes to the forefront, but the commission keeps working, and we will continue to expand our efforts," Rahatkar added. According to a statement issued by the Union Women and Child Development Ministry a few days ago, Rahatkar has demonstrated leadership skills across various political and social responsibilities.

During her tenure as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (2016-2021), she spearheaded initiatives like "Sakshama" (support for acid attack survivors), "Prajwala" (linking self-help groups to Centra government schemes), and "Suhita" (a 24x7 helpline service for women). The NCW, a

Congress names youth leader Akash Sharma for Raipur South bypoll

individual.

Opposition Congress on Tuesday announced the candidature of its youth leader Akash Sharma for the next month's bypoll to Raipur City South assembly seat in Chhattisgarh.

The seat fell vacant after sitting Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator and former state minister Brijmohan Agrawal resigned following his election to the Lok Sabha from Raipur parliamentary constituency. Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the name of Akash Sharma as the Congress candidate for the ensuing bye-election to the Raipur City South constituency," the party's state spokesperson said here. Sharma, the incumbent president of the state unit of the Youth Congress, has served as the state president of National Students' Union of India (NSUI), a student wing of Congress, in the past, he said. According to political experts, fielding a young face in the Congress in Raipur City South seat, considered as the strong-



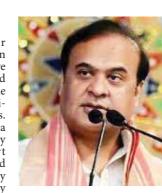
hold of the BJP. The ruling BJP has fielded its former MP Sunil Soni for the bypoll. The BJP has never lost Raipur City South, an urban constituency which came into existence in 2008. So far, this seat is being held by BJP's influential leader Brijmohan Agrawal. Agrawal, an eight-term legislator, was unbeaten since 1990 in assembly polls. The BJP fielded him in the last Lok Sabha polls and he was elected as an MP for the first time. Polling to the seat will be held on November 13 take place on November 23. October 25 is the last day of fil-

ing of nominations for the bypoll. In the last year's assembly elections, the BJP had registered a landslide victory winning 54 out of the 90 seats in the state, while the Congress had won 35 and Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) bagged one seat. There are 2,70,936 electors, including 1,33,713 males, 1,37,171 females and 52 transgenders in this constituency. A total of 253 polling booths have been set up for the bypoll and five companies of security personnel will be order during the election, offi-

Assam Chief Minister urges to expedite 57 national highway project

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said that the collective priority of both the Centre and the state government is the timely completion of 57 critical National Highway projects. Sarma said he attended a review meeting chaired by Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and requested him to expedite key projects, including the early



completion of the Jorhat-Dibrugarh highway, in the

Building the road to progress. Today in New Delhi, I had the privilege of attending a review meeting led by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri @nitin_gadkari ji, focused on the development of 1001 kms of highway projects in Assam.

Our collective priority remains the timely completion of 57 critical National Highway projects across various implementing agencies', the chief minister posted on 'X'.

The alignment of the Kaziranga elevated corridor has been approved, and the detailed project report of the Gohpur-Numaligarh Tunnel under the Brahmaputra river was also nearing completion, he said.

The completion of the fourlaning of the Baihata Chariali-Tezpur highway stretch was also urged, Sarma said. He also requested Gadkari for

re-tendering of the Majuli bridge over the Brahmaputra river, connecting Kamalabari and Nimati Ghat, where construction has been halted since early September.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Waterways and Ports Sarbananda Sonowal and MPs from Assam, he said.

Gadkari reviewed national highway projects of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim in Delhi on Tuesday.

been facing defamation cases

and tendered apologies in past.

To a question about the oppo-

USAID launches three initiatives to boost **Clean Energy Forum in South Asia**

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Three new initiatives ■ designed to accelerate clean energy progress across the South Asia region were launched in the South Asia Clean Energy Forum by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) here. The new initiatives, supported by the USAID through its South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP), are aimed at combating climate change and supporting sus-tainable economic growth in South Asia.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the event, US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, said the US government is committed to supporting South Asia's clean energy transition.

"The new initiatives reaffirm the United States' commitment to partnering with countries in the region to address



through transformative action. By working together, we have an extraordinary chance to protect our planet, our people and build our prosperity for generations to come," Garcetti said.

He said that South Asia has positioned itself as one of the most influential regions in its challenges. Rajasthan Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar said collective

efforts are important to effectively combat the global challenges of climate change.

He expressed confidence that the discussions at the South Asian Clean Energy Forum would shape future energy

The new initiatives are the "US-South Asia Mayoral Platform on Clean Energy and Sustainable Cities", which empowers local leaders to lead municipal clean energy transitions; the "US-India Low Carbon Comfort and Cooling Collective", aiming to mobilize USD 1 billion for superefficient cooling technologies by 2030; and "Clean Energy Investment Facilitation Platform", designed to connect investors with clean energy companies and close the financing gap for clean ener-

gy projects. The initiatives will give a push to the region's clean energy transition, promote sustainable economic growth, diversify clean energy supply chains and reduce carbon emissions.

"By facilitating innovation, cooperation and investment, the United States is partnering

with South Asian countries and private sectors to pave the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future in the region," a release said.

The clean energy transition will not only reduce emissions but also improve energy security and create opportunities for economic empowerment, driving progress toward global climate goals," the release added.

The South Asia Clean Energy Forum, being held from October 22 to 24 in Jaipur, is convening leaders from across the region to tackle the challenges posed by climate change, including rising temperatures, energy demands and the need for resilient infrastructure.

The Forum serves as a platform for collaborative solutions to meet these challenges, unlocking new economic opportunities and fostering regional cooperation.

AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal to face trial in defamation case panion of Kejriwal and noted that the Congress leader has also



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

 $T^{\text{he BJP said on Tuesday that}}_{\text{everyone in politics has a right to criticise but those lev-}}$ elling defamatory allegations will have to suffer consequences, as the Supreme Court cleared the way for AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal to face trial in a defamation case for remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualifica-

BJP leader and Lok Sabha MP Ravi Shankar Prasad claimed that Kejriwal's conduct towards utterly irresponsible, saying it need not be told the kind of "abuses" he has heaped on Modi. Prasad said Kejriwal offered to

tender an apology during the hearing in the Supreme Court on Monday but it was declined. He has become an expert in tendering apologies, the BJP leader said, adding he has apologised 10 times to different leaders, including Arun Jaitley, Nitin Gadkari and Kapil Sibal, for his defamatory remarks.

In a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, Prasad described him as a com-

sition party's criticism of the government as India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in east-Prime Minister Modi has been ern Ladakh, he said, "As far as Rahul Gandhi and Asaduddin Owaisi are concerned, how much they understand the nuances of foreign policy is a matter of larger debate." He said the BJP has no comment to offer apart from what the External Affairs Ministry has already

made.

Asked about Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav's alleged use of a profanity at the Supreme Court, Prasad noted that the Rajya Sabha MP has already clarified but added judiciary and judges should be

Doctors slam Didi Government for 'sympathy' to health mafia

The Bengal junior doctors who announced the withdrawal of the 17-day-long fastunto-death late on Monday evening consequent to "par-tially successful talks" with "insensitive, arrogant and arbitrary" powers that be on Tuesday assured continuous agitation via different forms and means until they extracted justice for the Kolkata rape and murder victim and "restore health of the moribund health department.'

The doctors had been agitating post the brutal rape and murder inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital of a postgraduate lady doctor in the small hours of August 9 triggering a nation-wide, nay world-wide protest.

"Though we managed to get some assurance of fulfillment of some of our demands --- of which we will still have to wait for the directive to come from the Government --- the body language of the State Government was not positive," Debashis Haldar one of the agitating doctors said adding "though the common people supported the doctors' cause whole-heartedly the powers



listen to us when we were raising issues on the corrupt officials and elements who have been under the CBI scanner and who have been perpetrating a threat and extortion syndicate in most of the Government medical colleges

Doctor Ániket Mahato one of the protesting doctors who had heated verbal arguments with Banerjee on the issue of getting 59 junior doctors and students of RGKMCH expelled said, "Chief Minister was rebuking our Principal for taking action ... she was scolding him for expelling the criminal elements who had perpetrated a regime of sexual exploitation,

extortion and examination malpractices besides other kind of corrupt activities in connivance with the former Princial Sandip Ghosh."

Seemingly the first person on

camera match the Chief Minister word-by-word and decibel-by-decibel in the past 13 years of the Trinamool Congress rule he continued, Mahato said, "we would not take such insult of our teachers in front of us ... when we told her that the expulsion was done by an empowered committee in consequence of deposition by victims and witnesses she refused to take our argument and warned all the Principals against taking such action in the future ... she said

the State Government would be necessary ... does this mean that the Government has taken no lesson from the RG Kar rape and murder case which is fallout of the existing corrupt cul-ture ... does this mean that the Government is siding with the

system right or sending a message to the criminals that they would once again get license to perpetrate crimes. Another doctor said, "when

we were raising the issue

hardened criminals ... Was this meeting held for setting the

which was being live-streamed the Chief Minister seemed more worried about her Government's getting bad name in Delhi than she was concerned about the limping health infrastructure of the State marred by corruption and threat culture perpetrated by some students, doctors and officials who have been drinking from the cup of

Meanwhile, the doctors who called off the Tuesday's general medical strike sector too said that their movement would continue in days to come via different ways "which will be decided following future meet-

Mamata asks PM to reduce drug prices

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Bengal Opposition has advised Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to "first mind her own business" by putting a lid on the "rampant corruption in the State Health Department of which she happens to be the minister incharge before lecturing Centre after the former shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to roll-back in the hiked price of eight life saving drugs.

"I urge upon your kind office to issue directions to the concerned ministry to immediately reconsider the decision on the price escalation in the overall interest of the health and wellbeing of the common people," the Chief Minister wrote to the Prime Minister saying "the welfare of the citizens" should "of paramount importance" for the Government.

"Perhaps, our aim ought to be preserving a balanced approach that respects both commercial viability and the citizen's right to affordable healthcare. The welfare of the citizens is of paramount importance, and all the stakeholders must align the policies to reflect this commitment. Looking forward to your urgent and kind consideration," the two-page letter said.

Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari promptly hit back saying the Chief Minister should first mid her own business before lecturing the Centre. "The entire Government departments in have rotted ... the Health and Education sector are brimming with corruption ... and her own party men are the main pivot of that corruption raj which is why the junior doctors and the people in general have descended on the streets today ... she has no right to write sermons before cleaning her own backyard," the BJP leader said.

A 50 percent hike in price of eight essential drugs was earlier green-signaled by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) a government-controlled agency responsible for availability of essential drugs at affordable

When asked whether the Trinamool Congress would use the price hike issue in the November 13 Assembly elections to six seats, senior party leader Kunal Ghosh said that the people were smart conscious enough to differentiate between a friend a foe and a pseudo friend apparently indicating the Trinmaool Congress, BJP and the Left adding, his party would raise the issue in public.

Tej Pratap owns 2.4 kg gold and assets worth over Rs 10 crore



BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

Tej Pratap Yadav, the former MP known for his simple public persona, has a penchant for gold jewelry in his private life. Currently contesting from the Karhal constituency, Yadav owns more than 2.4 kilograms of gold ornaments, significantly more than his wife, Rajlakshmi. Both Tej Pratap and Ŕajlakshmi are millionaires.

On Monday, Tej Pratap Yadav filed his nomination as the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate from Karhal. In the affidavit submitted with his nomination papers, he disclosed details of his assets.

According to the document, Tej Pratap Yadav owns movable and immovable assets worth Rs 10.25 crore, while Rajlakshmi's

assets are valued at Rs 2.3 crore. Besides his wealth, Tej Pratap also surpasses his wife in gold ownership, possessing 2.410 kilograms of gold ornaments compared Rajlakshmi's 240 grams.

Additionally, Tej Pratap Yadav owns two luxury vehicles-a five-year-old Jeep Camper worth around Rs 15 lakh and a two-year-old car valued at about Ŕs 35 lakh. Rajlakshmi, however, does not own any

Tej Pratap Yadav first entered the electoral fray in 2014, contesting the Lok Sabha by-election from the Mainpuri seat. Now, a decade later, he is running in the assembly by-election from Karhal. During this period, his assets have more than doubled, increasing from Rs 4.29 crore in 2014 to Rs 10.27 crore by 2024.

India, Singapore agree to further step up defence cooperation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $I^{
m ndia}$ and Singapore on Tuesday agreed to further step up defence cooperation including industry collaboration in niche domains during the sixth India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of Defence of Singapore Ng Eng Hen co-chaired the Dialogue. Both Ministers acknowledged the deep and long-standing bilateral defence relations based on shared outlook on regional peace, stability and

This meeting assumes significance in the backdrop of India marking a decade of its Act East policy, in which Singapore has played a key role in promoting economic cooperation & cultural ties, and developing strategic connectivity with countries in the

Both Ministers expressed satisfaction at the growing defence cooperation between the two countries.

There have been regular engagements between the Armed Forces of the two countries in recent years. As 2025 marks 60 years of



establishment of diplomatic The two Ministers also decidrelations between India and Singapore, both Ministers agreed to further step up defence cooperation and agreed to achieve new feats. They also agreed to extend bilateral agreement on Joint Military Training Army for

the next five years. Recognising that both nations are natural partners for commencing co-development and co-production of defence equipment, both sides agreed to enhance industry cooperation, including exploring collaboration in niche domains such as automation and Artificial Intelligence.

ed to take forward the cooperation in emerging areas like cyber security. Rajnath thanked Ng Eng Hen

for Singapore's support as country coordinator for India in ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus from 2021 to

The Defence Minister of Singapore acknowledged that India is a strategic voice for Asia's peace and stability. The bilateral relationship was recently elevated to Compréhensive Strategic Partnership during the visit of

Prime Minister Narendra

SC permits Setalvad to travel to Amsterdam Viswanathan allowed the plea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on The Supreme Court between November 14 and November 24 to attend the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam. Setalvad had received an invitation from the organisers to attend the festival in her capacity as producer of the documentary film Cycle Mahesh. A bench of Justices R Gavai and K V

The apex court had in July, 2023, granted her regular bail in a case of alleged fabrication of documents to frame innocent people in the 2002 post-Godhra riot cases. During the hearing on Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Setalvad, said she had filed an application

seeking permission to travel

abroad as the apex court had

in July, 2023, directed for her

passport to be in the custody

filed by Setalvad.

Amit Shah stresses on need for clarity in laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

▼nion Home Minister Amit the need for clarity in laws, stating that judiciary can intervene only when people responsible for drafting legislations leave "grey areas". He was addressing the Gujarat Legislative Assembly here as part of a day-long 'Legislative Drafting Training Workshop' organised for the officials of the Assembly Secretariat.

"I know that whatever I am going to speak will create a controversy, but I want to tell you that the judiciary will intervene only when you leave any grey area in drafting the legislation. More clarity in the legislation, less the intervention of courts. Shah said in his address to the House, where MLAs, MPs as well as former legislators and Speakers were present.

Citing the Modi government's move of abrogating Article 370, he said, "When the Article was drafted, it was clearly written that it is a temporary provision of the Constitution which can be removed through an amendment that can be passed through a simple majority in Parliament." "Now, if it was written that it is a constitutional provision instead of a temporary one, then we would have required a two-thirds of majority during voting instead of a simple majority. Thus, more clarity leads to less judicial intervention," the minister added.

In August 2019, the Centre revoked the special status granted under Article 370 of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir. The Supreme Court later also upheld its abrogation stating that it was a temporary provision. Shah claimed that bad drafting" of legislations is the main reason why the difference between legislature, executive and judiciary is getting blurred today.

"Our Constitution is very clear about the roles of legislature, executive and judiciary. It says that the government will formulate policies and the legislature will pass laws as per those policies. Judiciary will define the



implement them. But lines are blurred today between these three because of bad drafting of legislations," he said.

The "art of drafting legislation" is slowly getting extinct, he said, and opined that every legislative assembly should conduct such workshops for its staff to enhance their drafting skill. He also stressed that officials involved in this process should be given guidance on what to include in the Act and what provisions should become part of the rules of that act. Shah said India's Constitution, drafted and edited under Dr B R Ambedkar, is the most ideal legislative drafting.

example in the entire world on "At that time, there were 72 barristers who were part of the constituent assembly...Nearly 14 per cent of their time was spent on discussing fundamental rights. After such intense discussions, our Constitution was prepared. And today, some NGOs give us advice on the issue of fundamental rights," he said. The senior BJP leader said national and international perspectives should be kept in mind while drafting any act and common man should be able to understand its language also. Giving an example, Shah said the three new criminal laws the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) have been prepared keeping in mind Indian perspective as directed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These three new laws replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, all of which came into existence

during the British era, he said.



After offered two seats; Congress wary to contest UP by-polls BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The Congress party has shown reluctance in contesting the upcoming Uttar Congress leadership is hesibeing offered just two seats by its INDIA bloc ally, the Samajwadi Party (SP). This hesitation stems from internal divisions and concerns that a poor performance could undermine the party's bargaining power in the 2027 assembly elections.

Some Congress leaders argue against accepting SP's offer to contest two seats—Ghaziabad and Khair-which are considered strongholds of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). They believe that a loss in these constituencies could

weaken the party's position when negotiating seat-sharing arrangements for the 2027 elections.
"This is why the state

alliance with the Samajwadi Party for the by-polls," a senior party leader revealed. Initially, Congress sought five of the 10 seats up for grabs in the by-elections. However, SP has nominated its candidates in seven constituencies, leaving Ghaziabad and Khair for Congress. These seats are seen as difficult for Congress to win, leading to internal debates over whether to participate at all.

Sources indicate that Congress fears a poor showing in these by-elections could



limit its leverage when negotiating seat distribution for the 2027 assembly elections. If the party fails to perform, it may be left with little choice but to accept whatever seats allocates in the future,

weakening its negotiating stance.

Ajay Rai, the Uttar Pradesh Congress president, addressed the concerns, stating, "We haven't refused to contest the by-elections, but two seats are

not enough. The state leader-ship has communicated the reality to the party's top brass. Defeating the BJP is crucial, and we are willing to make sacrifices if necessary."

opposes participating in the by-elections unless the party secures a more favorable seat allocation.

These leaders worry that accepting an unfavorable arrangement could set a precedent, making it difficult for Congress to demand a better deal in future elections. Political analysts see Congress in a delicate position as it attempts to regain influence in Uttar Pradesh.

The 2027 assembly elections are viewed as a crucial opportunity for the party's resurHowever, a break with the SP

could allow the latter to cast Congress as a spoiler within the anti-BJP alliance, damaging its credibility among vot-

The Samajwadi Party is also wary of openly rejecting the alliance, as a future BJP victory could prompt Congress to blame SP for any setbacks. Both parties remain in a strategic limbo, with the final decision on their alliance's direction resting with the central leadership

"The upcoming by-elections are expected to play a decisive role in shaping the future of the Congress-SP alliance, with potential implications for their strategies heading into the 2027 assembly elections.

Cylinder explosion in Bulandshahr leads to house collapse; six dead

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

A tragic incident unfolded in the Ashapuri Colony of Bulandshahr, where a twostorey house collapsed following a massive oxygen cylinder explosion, resulting in the death of six family members and leaving three others critically injured.

Emergency personnel, along with local residents, carried out relief and rescue operations throughout the night, working to save 17 individuals trapped under the debris. The accident occurred late on Monday night, sending shockwaves through the neighborhood.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shlok Kumar confirmed the fatalities, stating, Six people lost their lives in the accident. How the incident occurred will be determined after an investigation. Those trapped under the debris have been rescued.'

According to sources, the explosion happened while oxygen was being administered to Rukhsana, the wife of Riyazuddin, a shuttering worker. Rukhsana had recently been



pital after experiencing breathing issues but started having difficulties again upon returning home. During the setup of an oxygen cylinder for her, it suddenly exploded, causing the house to collapse.

The impact of the explosion buried 26 members of Riyazuddin's extended family under the rubble, including his sons, daughters, daughters-inlaw, and grandchildren. Among those who lost their lives were Rivazuddin, his wife Rukhsana, their sons Siraj and Shahrukh, and their daughter Tamanna.

Rescue efforts involved fire

brigade units, the State Disaster

Response Force (SDRF), and

local volunteers. By late night,

17 individuals were rescued, while seven others sustained injuries. One remains in critical condition and is currently undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital. The explosion's deafening

noise sent panic through the neighborhood, with many residents initially mistaking it for an earthquake or a bomb blast. Rashid, a resident of the Ashapuri Colony, described the sound as "deafening, as if a bomb had been dropped." Smoke filled the area, adding to the fear and confusion. Realizing the house had col-

the rubble and reach those

trapped underneath.

financial needs. lapsed, neighbors rushed to the scene, using their hands and makeshift tools to dig through

VP Dhankhar emphasises on need of supportive framework for artists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar on Tuesday emphasised the urgent need for a supportive framework that allows artists to flourish free from financial insecurity. He highlighted the importance of recognizing and uplifting those dedicated to dance and music who are currently facing hard-

"We must handhold them and reignite their passion," he said at the Concluding Ceremony of the International Festival on Indian Dance held here organised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Dhankar acknowledged the critical role of fiscal assistance, noting that many artists become so immersed in their craft that they overlook their

He assured that the Union Culture Ministry would establish a mechanism to unite all stakeholders in the arts, promoting collaboration to create a nurturing ecosystem where artists feel secure and sup-



ported. This initiative aims to uncover and celebrate the immense talent found in villages and smaller cities, fostering a vibrant cultural landscape. The Vice President also expressed concern about the lack of inclusivity across various sectors.

He asserted that India has become a global beacon of inclusive growth, benefiting from good governance and affirmative policies that uplift the most vulnerable and marginalized. "This has instilled a sense of hope and possibility in our nation, a sentiment that was absent just a few years ago," he noted

In a world rife with conflicts and challenges, Dhankar pointed to the unifying power of dance and music. "These art forms transcend cultural barriers and offer a ray of light amidst turmoil," he remarked. He called for collective action to engage the youth in Indian dance and music, emphasizing that such involvement can help divert them from detrimental habits like drug use. By participating in the arts, whether as performers or spectators, young people can foster positivity and a sense of community well-being, he added.

Dhankar urged a collaborative effort to promote Indian cultural heritage, ensuring that the richness of our artistic traditions resonates widely and positively impacts society.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Breathless in Delhi

Delhi's air quality has once again plunged into the 'Very Poor' category, marking the beginning of the dreaded annual pollution season

s the Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 312 on October 21, 2024, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) announced the activation of Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, which came into effect from October 22. The city is bracing for several days of toxic air, with forecasts indicating that the AQI will remain in the 'Very Poor' range due to unfavourable climatic and meteorological conditions, such as calm winds and stagnant air. Over the years, Delhi has consistently struggled with air quality issues, particularly during the winter months when pollution levels spike to alarming levels. The problem intensifies due to a combination of factors including the burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states, construction dust, vehicular emissions and industrial activities. In previous years, the city witnessed severe smog days that not only disrupted daily life but also had long-lasting effects on public health. Efforts to curb pollution have included initiatives such as the implementation of



the GRAP, which consists of a set of emergency measures that are triggered based on the severity of air quality. These measures have previously helped prevent air quality from worsening further, but the results have been mixed. While temporary improvements have been achieved, long-term solutions remain elusive. The annual nature of the problem indicates that past measures, though helpful, have not addressed the root causes effectively.

A significant contributor to Delhi's poor air quality is the burning of crop residue in neighbouring states like Punjab and Haryana. Despite bans and incentives for alternative disposal methods, stubble burning remains

a widespread practice due to economic and logistical challenges faced by farmers. Besides this vehicular emission and construction activities adds to the pollution. With the invocation of GRAP Stage 2, a range of measures will be implemented to tackle the escalating pollution levels: To reduce dust on roads, mechanical sweeping and water sprinkling will be conducted daily on identified roads. Besides, strict enforcement of dust control measures at construction and demolition sites will be carried out. The use of diesel generator sets will be discouraged, except for essential services. These actions will supplement the Stage 1 measures that have been in place since October 15, which include banning garbage burning, banning coal and firewood usage in hotels and restaurants, and imposing restrictions on brick kilns. Indeed, the 'Very Poor' air quality has serious implications for the health and wellbeing of Delhi's residents. While GRAP provides a framework for emergency measures, long-term strategies are needed to bring about lasting improvements in air quality. Without a comprehensive approach that combines policy interventions, technological innovations, and behavioural changes, the cycle of pollution will continue to haunt the city each year. Till that happens, Delhiites will have yet another season to breathe the polluted air.



People buy lanterns ahead of the Diwali festival, in Solapul

Trump tries hard to win the second term



The traits Trump exhibits on the golf course serve as a metaphor for his approach to life and politics: a willingness to bend the rules and win at any cost

merican sportswriter Rick Reilly wrote a called Commander Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump, to explain Donald Trump's incorrigible ways. He alludes to Trump's selfclaimed prowess in Golf and his purported handicap of 2.8 by a fawning Golf Digest by saying, "If Trump is a 2.8, Queen Elizabeth is a pole vaulter."

However, perhaps the most damning reality check for Trump is the fact that both his 'wingman' (former and current) i.e., Vice President Mike Pence and his current running mate, JD Vance, would have the maximum access to Trump and know him as a person, have been critical - even if expediency forces Vance to conveniently renege from his earlier views and for Pence says a lot with his deafening silence and refusal to endorse his former boss's candidature.

For all his matching vitriol, boorishness (remember, 'childless cat ladies') and Oorah-style brouhaha as a former Marine, JD Vance was once stoutly anti-Trump. Vance had once declared himself as a 'never-Trump guy' and called Trump 'reprehensible' and an 'idiot'. Vance then had the clarity to articulate the reason for his non-support of Trump by insisting, "The reason, ultimately, that I am not...is because I think that (Trump) is the most raw expression of a massive finger pointed at other people."
In the 2016 US Presidential elec-

tions, Vance had rationalised Trump's authoritarian, illiberal and intolerant ways by slamming, 'back and forth between thinking Trump is a cynical a-hole like Nixon who wouldn't be that bad (and might even prove useful) or that he's America's Hitler"! For all his matching vitriol, boorishness (remember, 'childless cat ladies') and Oorah-style brouhaha as a former Marine, JD Vance was once stoutly anti-Trump.

Vance had once declared himself as a 'never-Trump guy' and called Trump 'reprehensible' and an idiot. He was quick to take down' uncomfortable views that he had expressed about Trump would have hoped. like the one he had put about the Much as he remained loyal to 'Access Hollywood' tape where the bitter end, Pence did final-

Trump had shockingly claimed that fame had enabled him to grope women!

Then Vance had heeded to his moral conscience as a practising Christian and lamented, "Fellow Christians, everyone is watching us when we apologize for this man. Lord help us". But all his conscience came to nought at the altar of political ambition as Vance meekly retracted later, "I've been very open that I did say those critical things and I regret them, and I regret being wrong about the guy".

With that, everything was supposedly forgotten, and Vance now 'presumably' sees Trump as a paragon of Christian values, morality, and dignity that America needs for the future!

Meanwhile, the elephant in the room who says a lot by not speaking at all is former Vice President Mike Pence - once the most devout and virtuous of Christians who was earlier the most loyal confidante of Trump. Presumably, the diehard Republican had put up with all of Trump's crassness in the silent hope that the Republican Presidency would set things right with conservative and far-right policies, as



TODAY, THE FORGOTTEN IMAGE OF PENCE IS REFLECTIVE OF THE **CONUNDRUM THAT** MANY COMMITTED REPUBLICANS FACE IN TRUMP'S CANDIDATURE – HE

REFUSES TO SUPPORT TRUMP AFTER "ALL THAT HE HAS DONE" AND **CANNOT BRING** HIMSELF TO ENDORSE A PARTISAN RIVAL, KAMALA HARRIS,

ly put fealty to the Constitution above the unreasonable demands of a man he had once slavishly addressed as 'my President', on the fateful 6th January 2021.

That Trump had showed his true character by shrugging his shoulders with a 'so what' refrain when told that Pence was at physical risk with rioters chanting 'hang Mike Pence, is a footnote in the long history of Trump's unhinged, amoral and reckless politics. Importantly, Pence had held his head, heart, and soul intact, when he played a pivotal role in saving America's democracy by confirming the electoral process and result, to the utter

dismay of Trump.
Pence was to later reflect philosophically, "like the Bible says, at some point, you've just got to wipe the dust off your feet and go your separate ways". In Trump's golfing world, the term 'Mulligan' (an extra stroke allowed after a poor shot) is best applicable to Pence's tumultuous tenure, unceremonious parting, and subsequent redemption with the Trump era.

Today, the forgotten image of Pence is reflective of the Donald Trump. conunarum that many committed Republicans face in Trump's candidature – he refuses to support Trump after "all that he has done" and

cannot bring himself to endorse a partisan rival, Kamala Harris, either.

This lurking ambiguity in Republican ranks (or amongst the 'undecided') could tilt things decisively in the forthcoming cliffhanger of a Presidential contest. Meanwhile Trump's view of his former 'wingman' Pence is as expected of a cribbing, complaining and bitter man who vaingloriously claims that Pence lacked the 'courage' and 'stamina' in the ultimate

bidding. Even Vance's own mealymouthed and almost forced views on Trump's "stolen mandate" in the 2020 Presidential elections are also, hardly convincing.

This is situationally reflective of the 'cultlike campaign' of Donald Trump that is hoping to cross the bridge even if it tramples on imperatives that are constitutional, moral or ideological/partisan, as in Donald Trump's world, if you can cheat in Golf.

You can surely cheat in life winning at any cost is only an extension of the selfish and deceitful spirit that represents

(1 ne writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; the views expressed are personal)

THE EDITOR

Seeking validation: A necessity more than an add-on to our vanity



Though contentment offers a deep sense of inner peace, validation serves as a crucial motivator

uch to the contrary of the popular belief Labout happiness being commensurate with the degree of material success, my late father asserted that the key to happiness lies in contentment. Both views have their share of advocates, the former often relying on validation from outside, and the latter, a more philosophical contention anchored in an irrevocable sense of self-assur-

The philosophy of contentment is a long shot for many of us embroiled in making it materialistically big, and we tend to seek a lot of external validation to determine our core worth. Maybe, the philosophies are based on two entirely different life principles and the value of neither can be dismissed. Success has its sweet trimmings and contentment has its merit, and both may be equally coveted.

What distinguishes one from the other is the element of endorsement we crave for our endeavours. Even the most self-assured person looks for acceptance and recognition, and there is no



others is indeed required for us to stay on course, not simply for the ego boost it brings but also for the motivation it gives us to strive and march forward in making a mark in the world. The more sagacious ones among us may, however, hold a different view. I have heard several suggestions that we should not seek approval from others and instead rely solely on our inner convictions.

While this notion seems noble, it underestimates a fundamental human needto feel seen, heard, and acknowledged by those

around us. To deny the significance of external validation is to ignore an essential part of the human experience. Whether we realise it or not, the approval shame in it. Validation from we seek from others has a even just a simple "well

profound impact on our selfperception and our efforts to

When someone validates our work, it serves as a confirmation that we are on the right track. It is a form of recognition that can affirm our abilities, encourage us to push further, and give us the confidence to take risks that we might otherwise avoid.

Take, for instance, the world of creative endeavours. Writers, artists, musicians those of us in professions where the outcomes are subjective—often look to their audiences for validation. It's not just about ego or pride. When someone appreciates a piece of art or writing, it signals to the creator that their expression has resonated with others, creating a connec-

It is this recognition that gives an artist the courage to continue crafting, to improve, and to share their innermost thoughts with the world. Without that validation, their passion might wither in isolation. In professional contexts, validation can often come in the form of promotions, awards, or

done." These acknowledgements are crucial motivators. They tell us that our efforts matter, that our contributions are recognised, and that we are moving in the right direction. While selfbelief is vital, external acknowledgement adds weight to that belief, making it more tangible. It confirms that our skills and efforts are seen as valuable by others, which can propel us toward even greater heights. Furthermore, seeking validation is not just about personal gain—it also creates a cycle of mutual encouragement. When we validate others, we

lift them, creating a supportive environment where everyone's contributions are acknowledged.

It doesn't just boost their morale; it strengthens their commitment to the work they're doing. Of course, we must also be wary of relying solely on external validation. The danger lies in overdependence, where we begin to measure our worth only by what others say.
(The author is a columnist

and writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)

MAHAYUTI GAINS EDGE

Madam — This refers to the news report, 'BJP releases 99-strong candidate list' (October 21). On one hand, alliance partners of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) are still struggling to finalise the seat-sharing formula for Maharasthra Assembly polls, the BJP has announced candidates for the majority of seats in its share. The MVA dealt a deadly blow to the Mahayuti by winning 29 out of 48 Lok Sabha polls. But, in the last 4 months, political equations have drastically changed in the state, which may help the ruling dispensation, i.e. the BJP-led Mahayuti, which was just 1.52 per cent behind the MVA in terms of Lok Sabha vote share. The Shinde government's Ladki Bahini Yojana scheme has been very popular among women

The Congress which won 13 seats and secured lead in 63 assembly segments in Lok Sabha polls, appeared to lose momentum after its poor performance in recent Assembly polls in Haryana and J and K. In addition, the Mahayuti has less discord over the chief ministerial face in the Assembly polls though it is going in the polls without any CM face. But the MVA is a divided house on CM face. The Shiv Sena (UBT) wants projection of former CM and party chief Uddhav Thackeray while Sharad Pawar is repeatedly hinting to support Jayant Patil as CM face. Unexpected success in Lok Sabha has also driven ambitions of the Congress high for the CM post in case of the victory of the MVA. The Manoj Jarange factor is also unlikely to be as effective as in Lok Sabha polls.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

NAIDU'S BOLD MOVE

Madam — Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu is a part of the farright government at the centre, which has been demanding for more than 10 years that 'population control policies should be implemented as soon as possible to control India's population growth. But

Yamuna pollution on the rise



Yamuna River has been raising concerns for the past few days as the festive season arrives. The river is covered with a very thick layer of froth. The froth can cause major health problems, which can affect both human

opposite and talking about bringing the opposite policy to his state. He wants to encourage those who have more children and is planning to punish those who have fewer. He said that the increasing average age of people in the state is becoming a matter of concern. Families should have at least two or more children. In the coming times, only those who have two or more children will be able to contest local body elections.

The state government will soon make a law for this. Naidu further said that there are many districts in Andhra Pradesh where only elderly people are left in the villages. The fertility rate is continuously falling in the southern states. While the average fertility rate in the country is 2.1, this figure has fallen to 1.6 in the southern states. Is India really getting old? The young population is decreasing. According to the Centre's Youth in India-2022 report, by 2036, only 34.55 crore of the population of the country will be young, which is more than 47 per cent right now. Currently, 25 crore youth in the country Chandrababu Naidu is going exactly the are between 15 and 25 years of age. In the

health and wildlife in the areas surrounding the river Yamuna. Now, as we see, pollution levels have reached an alarming stage. Instantaneous steps should be taken in order to address the

issue as soon as possible.
According to experts, the froth contains high levels of ammonia and phosphates, which can lead to respiratory and skin disorders. Recently, the Environment Minister, Gopal Rai, mentioned that a few days ago, the officials were instructed to recognise the regional sources of pollution. 13 hotspots have been chosen for this purpose, where the main local source of pollution will be identified, which was causing the area's pollution levels to rise significantly above Delhi's AQI.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

IMMIGRANTS FACE UNCERTAINTY

next 15 years, it will fall even faster.

Madam — The escalating diplomatic row between India and Canada will have the more than 4 lakh Indian students studying in Canada worried and concerned about their future. Many have sold everything they owned in Índia to study in

Canada, which is seen as a gateway to a bet-

ter future. The 20 lakh Indians will won-

der what their future is going to be. The first thing the government needs to do is reassure the immigrants that their interests will be protected by the government of India. The Indian media too should stop bashing Justin Trudeau the way they have been doing. India needs also to be worried that other nations like America, the UK, Australia and New Zealand have come out in support of Canada over the plot to assas-

sinate Canadian citizens on its soil. **Anthony Henriques** | *Mumbai*

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

THE PATH TO **TRUE GROWTH**

Constant comparison overshadows cooperation, empathy and joy of life



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

Il of us, whether we like it or not, have to compete from the time we are born until the time we die. Though most of us indulge in healthy competition all the time, nevertheless, one thing common to all kinds of competitions is the underlying desire to win a victory for the self or to defeat others. While competing, a person brings out their skill, ability, art, acumen, or talent to show that they are superior, stronger, better, more powerful, more skilful, more learned, or more competent than others. It is this habit of making comparisons with others that creates the competition background.

That is why we always see this subtle desire in people who are winners, to hear some words of praise about themselves or their performance. To fulfil this ultimate objective of massaging their egos, one does not care if the other person feels disappointed, depressed, defeated and even humiliated, ridiculed, or booed. This drive to be recognised as "better" than others sometimes overshadows the simple joy of participating or improving oneself. To understand this kind of behaviour, one needs to understand human psychology because the roots of comparison and competition have been sown into our minds since our childhood days. From school grades to sibling rivalries, we are conditioned early to pit our success against others' failures. Hence, they become more rigid with time. We need to understand that the core objective behind the competition is not simply the desire to win, but it is intertwined with the motive of laying aside the softer and nobler sentiments of cooperation, kindness, and gentleness, even if only for a while. In competition, one puts all energies and talents into bogging down or defeating another person, leaving them behind in the race while making a forward thrust to reach



the goal before anyone else. As the famous philosopher Schopenhauer said, "The world is a battle of will and intellect." But in this battle. one often loses sight of empathy and connectedness, which are essential for human growth.

It may also put a limit on one's spirit of giving, helping, cooperating and sacrificing. Remember! Anything small and insignificant in the beginning has the potential to grow and become big. Hence, we must not forget that even though a spark or flame of fire may be small to start with, it can reduce a big apartment with valuables to ashes if it grows into a big fire. Thus, we should be careful and vigilant, because if the whole society catches this contagion or infection of selfishness or rivalry, it may spoil the charm of life and the atmosphere in society. Some people link competition to motivation and developing an attitude toward high performance. But they fail to understand that this evil trait to defeat others, which may look like a harmless thing initially, may eventually develop into a spirit of revenge, feelings of hatred or enmity, bitter jealousy, confrontation, hostile attitudes and ugly outbursts. These effects are not limited to the individuals involved but spill over into communities, organisations and even nations. Look at global politics or corporate boardrooms, and you will see this principle at play on a massive scale. Hence, it all depends upon the emotional maturity of a person whether or not he or she is affected. Because this seed of evil, as it grows, takes the form of a big tree with many branches; so, too, does selfishness or the spirit to downgrade others to gain ascendance for the self. It may proliferate into many evils or obnoxious habits. Hence, one must try to curtail selfishness and give up the ambition of winning by vengeance for the applause and praise of the self. Remember! The only competition that should matter to us is the one that takes place within ourselves. Hence, it is better to defeat one's inner demons first and become victorious from within to be an example for others to follow.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist;

views are personal)

NEP 2020: A blueprint for transformative education



While NEP promises radical changes through holistic learning and flexible assessments, implementation challenges continue to hamper its progress

EP 2020 was founded on the guiding principles of Access, Affordability Accountability. This was primarily to prepare the young ones to face the diverse national & global challenges for the present & future. The Policy aims to lead to a multi-disciplinary, holistic under-graduation syllabus, create wider choices of combinations of Subjects, Integration of Vocational Education with regular Subjects and multi-entry and multi-exit points with regular appropriate certification at various stages. The aim is to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth, economy and/or background. This should eventually lead to transformative changes which shall change the lifeline of education in our country. The emphasis is going to be on holistic edu-cation, early childhood care, flexible assessments, skill development, integration of technology, teacher training and higher education reforms. These are aimed at designing a learner-centric and inclusive education for a future-ready

By embracing these India is poised to provide quality education to everyone with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the 21st century. The motto has been to provide "Equitable and Inclusive Education" to ensure that no child should be denied quality education because of their socio-cultural background and 100 per cent GER is reached by 2030. Looking at all the facts presented alone, one gets a feeling that this is going to be a real game changer in the education system of our country but the reality remains that it has not taken off even after three years of its approval. The major reason is that a majority do not understand the spirit of this very meaningful policy. If implemented in letter and spirit then our country shall be comparable to the best in the world in the field of education. An in-depth analysis and exploring what lies ahead; One can divide this whole NEP-2020 into four main capsules which this Policy envis-

Teaching in the mother tongue or spoken language, Learn to leave, Teach to Transform and Educate to Empower. These highlighted Capsules shall com-pletely sum up the entire NEP-2020, which none has so far put appropriately and completely. Elaborating each one of these shall drive home all the points: Teaching in spoken language: The importance of this cannot be undermined. Original thinking comes only in the mother tongue (spoken languages) and this advantage has never been given to our students in any of our earlier policies. English has always been overemphasised and a wrong notion has been created that English is knowledge whereas the fact remains that it is just a language and not knowledge. Knowledge can always be acquired by knowing a lan-guage. Our beginners have always been worried about learning English rather than developing an understanding of a concept in their way, therefore majority of the students are lost in this learning of the English language rather than focussing on the original thinking. This has been given an appropriate weightage under NEP. A student shall learn to



INDIA IS POISED TO PROVIDE QUALITY **EDUCATION TO EVERYONE WITH** THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND or not) **KNOWLEDGE TO** THRIVE IN THE 21ST CENTURY. THE MOTTO HAS

BEEN TO PROVIDE "EQUITABLE AND EDUCATION" TO ENSURE THAT NO CHILD SHOULD BE DENIED **BECAUSE OF** THEIR SOCIO-

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

develop an understanding of what subjects to learn and what to pick up eventually in higher classes which has not been the case so far. A course used to be thrust upon them. This very important facet has been very appropriately addressed in this.

Learn to Leave: Having decided what course to take up for secondary and higher education, a student used to be trapped forever whether one liked the subject/ course or not. (In the older education system for example if one had opted for Physics or Sanskrit: one was struck with that forever whether one liked these subjects

There was no way to move out unless one gave up higher education or started afresh. The other difficulty was that due to some odd circumstances if one had to discontinue the education there was no way to restart unless you lose years/ time, but in this, one could leave anytime or rejoin anytime (Comes under Multi

INCLUSIVE entry/ Multi exit system).
In the present system if one stayed away for a few years one could not come back to education in desired subjects but under NEP-2020 one can restart anytime one's education by including the credits earned before leaving. Therefore, under the present NEP, QUALITY no one shall stay away or be denied education because of cir-EDUCATION cumstances. This was not the case in the older system.

Education to empower: Under this education is to give due benefits to society by developing the right kind of skill. For Example, an electronic engineer is not able to do even basic electrical repairs or a mechanical engineer is not in a position to rectify even a basic fault. Integration of vocational courses with regular ones to provide practical skills for employment, benefiting students with

ited access to traditional pathways or linking them with one another are some of the hallmarks of the present system. This is to develop the right syl-

labus to reduce disparities. Emphasis in this is on equitable access to quality education. Essentially NEP 2020 shall be attempting to reduce unwanted syllabus for comprehensive under-standing towards skill-based edu-**Teach to transform:** the teaching

in the older system was not of any speciality. One acquires the right skills through one's efforts to be useful to society. Under this, it shall be essential to train teachers and educational staff to deliver child-centred education for job placement, which shall be an important feature so far lacking to a large extent.

Challenges: One of the biggest features of this has been the wide choice of subjects that one could take. Now this wide spectrum of subjects will be possible to be taken by students if there is a way to keep a record of a student's movement and subjects taken. In a Country like ours which has more than 39K colleges, about 1000 Universities and 4.33 crores students (Nearly 80 per cent are in graduation and the remaining 20 per cent are from post-graduation classes), it shall be impossible to maintain a record of this kind unless there is a mechanism similar to computerised banking arrangement which maintains all types of record impeccably. For this an Academic Bank of Credit has been proposed where every institution shall be registered to enable a record of these movements of students, subjects taken and credits earned can be maintained like what is done in bank-

Biggest flaw so far: Unfortunately, to date, not even 50 per cent of Institutions have registered themselves in this (in ABC) which is the real key to the success of this policy. This is a way to keep records of students' subjects, their movements and credits earned.

Sharing of resources: Under NEP a wide umbrella of choice of subject, record of early education, movement from one institution to another and credits cleared/ earned by a student shall be possible only if the resources are shared by various institutions.

It will be impossible for any particular college to offer all subjects and to offer teaching in a variety of courses unless there is a huge staff to do this. It will be humanly impossible to achieve all this unless sharing is done particularly when online teaching has now come in a big way in our university system.

Similarly, the resources for science

laboratories, libraries research facilities as well as Entrepreneurship schemes can well as be very effectively shared to make the education truly per the aims of NEP 2020. Therefore, in conclusion, this policy shall succeed if: Every institution registers with ABC (Academic Bank of Credit) Sharing of resources starts in a big way in earnest in all areas like teaching, especially in online modes, libraries, Laboratories and instrumental facilities; Open schooling system for all without any conditions and Establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India immediately to monitor the registration of ABC etc. It shall not become a roaring success unless all agencies like MOE, UGC etc take concerted efforts to bring about a radical change.

(The writer is a Former Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University and Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul; views

reduction in fuel consumption

Revolutionising India's food security: Route optimisation cuts costs, carbon emissions

With over 81 crore beneficiaries, the Govt is now leveraging advanced data-driven route optimisation tools as part of the PM GatiShakti master plan

¬he Government of India provides free food grains to more than 81 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) making it the largest food security programme in the world. This vast operation from sourcing food grains from farmers to delivering them to ration cardholdersrelies on a complex, decadesold supply chain. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), state procurement agencies, millers, transporters, warehouses, and Fair Price Shops (FPS) all play a critical role in this network. However, its design has historically been shaped by administrative convenience more than scientific optimisation. Supply routes were planned manually by



state officials, a process prone to sub-optimality, bias and human error. In October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the PM GatiShakti Master Plan aiming to enhance multimodal connectivity and optimise logistics across the coun-

One of its key pillars, "Optimisation," envisions selecting the most efficient routes for transporting goods, each state. Using this data, cus-

thereby saving time and reducing costs. In line with this vision, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) launched a national route optimisation exercise in March 2023, in partnership with the World Food Programme (UNWFP) and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) from IIT Delhi.

This exercise, targeting the annual transportation of 6.8 crore metric tons of food grains through the PDS, marks a transformative step towards building a more efficient and cost-effective food supply chain. The process was comprehensive: geo-locations of warehouses and FPS, along with their capacities and road distances, were collected from

tom algorithms were developed for each state to determine the most optimal supply chain routes. More than 50 physical workshops were held by DFPD and FITT officials to guide states in data collection and demonstrate the benefits of route optimisation. These optimised routes were

then validated on the ground to ensure they accounted for local conditions, and a statespecific intra-state optimisation tool was developed to allow for adjustments in the supply chain - such as adding or modifying entities like warehouses or FPSs. For instance, Bihar developed an annual movement plan based on its PDS requirements, food grain volume, and monthly transport routes. The customised algorithm factored in different



ment within the state and the grain required to be sourced from the FCI. This gave the state a clear view of its yearly logistics, allowing for cost-saving adjustments. By choos-ing the optimal option, Bihar reduced transport distances by 19 per cent, saving over Rs 3.09 crore per month. Similarly, Mizoram optimised its routes by eliminating unnecessary transfers of food grains 30 out of 31 states, with intra-

between warehouses, achieving a 50 per cent reduction in distance and saving an estimated Rs 1.27 crore monthly. A significant milestone in this effort was the integration of the route optimisation tool with the GatiShakti platform, which now houses geo-locations of FPSs and warehouses across all

This integration enables the platform to generate the shortest possible motorable routes from FCI godowns to state godowns, and further from state godowns to FPSs.

The platform also allows realtime route re-optimisation based on updated infrastructure data (such as new roads) from other ministries. Since March 2023, route optimisation assessments have been completed for

state route optimisation tools developed for 15 states so far. Early results from 12 states show tremendous promise, with transportation costs reduced by an estimated Rs 112 crore annually. Once fully implemented across all states, savings could exceed? 250 crore per year. This initiative is not only an economic win but also an environmental one. Global food miles-representing the distance food travels from production to consumption—account for nearly one-fifth of total food system emissions. Optimising India's food distribution routes can contribute significantly to reducing CO2 emissions, aligning with the country's climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement and its Conference of Parties (COP) targets. The

will also help conserve foreign exchange reserves. Looking ahead, DFPD is exploring the possibility of earning carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), offering states an added incentive to complete the route optimisation process and earn tradable caroon credit certificates. This step would not only strengthen India's commitment to a climatesmart supply chain but also potentially generate financial penefits. In conclusion, The integration of advanced technologies and data-driven tools is setting the stage for a smarter future in public distribution, one that safeguards both our resources and the planet. (The writer is Secretary, Food & Public Distribution, Govt of *India; views are personal)*

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2024

Blinken arrives in Israel as US looks to renew cease-fire efforts

Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Israel on Tuesday on his 11th visit to the region since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. The US hopes to revive ceasefire efforts after the killing of top Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, but so far all the warring parties appear to be dig-

Israel is still at war with Hamas more than a year after the militant group's Oct 7 attack, and with Hezbollah in Lebanon, where it launched a ground invasion earlier this month. Israel is also expected to strike Iran after its ballistic missile attack on Oct 1.

Blinken landed just hours after Hezbollah launched a barrage of rockets into central Israel, setting off air raid sirens in the country's most populated areas and its international airport, but causing no apparent damage or injuries. The Israeli military said it intercepted most of the five projectiles, with one landing in an open area.

Another 15 projectiles were fired from Lebanon into northern Israel at around the same time, the military said.

Blinken is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top officials. Following Israel,

Hezbollah fires rockets into central Israel

resume cease-fire talks in Gaza following the

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has

pledged to annihilate Hamas and recover

dozens of hostages held by the group. Hamas

says it will only release the captives in return

for a lasting cease-fire, a full Israeli withdraw-

al from Gaza and the release of Palestinian pris-

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants blew

holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in,

killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Israel's offensive in

Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians,

according to local health authorities, who do

in August.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have brokered months of

talks between Israel and

Hamas, trying to strike a deal

in which the militants would

release dozens of hostages in

return for an end to the war, a

lasting cease-fire and the release of Palestinian prisoners. But both Israel and Hamas

accused each other of making

new and unacceptable

demands over the summer, and the talks ground to a halt

The US has also tried to bro-

ker a cease-fire between Israel

and Hezbollah, but those

efforts fell apart as tensions

spiked last month with a series

death of Hamas leader Yahva Sinwar.

Hezbollah launched a barrage of rockets into Central Israel on Tuesday, setting off air raid sirens in the country's most populated areas but causing no apparent damage or injuries, a few hours before US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken arrived in the region on a mission to restart stalled Gaza ceasefire talks. The Israeli military said five projectiles were fired from Lebanon into Israel and said most were intercepted by Israel's missile defense system. One landed in an open area.

The rocket fire came as Israel stepped up its strikes in Lebanon, targeting a Hezbollah-run financial institution, and as the US pushed to

include Jordan, Saudi Arabia,

Qatar and the United Arab

"Secretary Blinken will dis-

cuss the importance of bring-

ing the war in Gaza to an end,

securing the release of all

hostages, and alleviating the

suffering of the Palestinian people," State Department

spokesman Matthew Miller

Blinken will also discuss plan-

ning for when the conflict

ends and "the need to chart a

new path forward that enables

Palestinians to rebuild their

said in a statement.

lives," Miller added.

Emirates.

not distinguish combatants from civilians. he's expected to visit a number of Arab countries, likely to He said Blinken also would underscore the need for a dramatic increase in the amount of humanitarian aid reaching Gaza, something that Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear in a letter to

> Israeli officials last week. That letter reminded Israel that the Biden administration could be forced by US law to curtail some forms of military aid should the delivery of humanitarian aid continue to be hindered.

> Blinken's previous trips have yielded little in the way of ending hostilities, but he has managed to increase aid deliveries to Gaza in the past

militant group's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and most of his senior commanders.

Israel is currently waging another major operation in already-devastated northern Gaza, which has killed hundreds of Palestinians over the last two weeks, according to local health authorities.

In Lebanon, Israel has carried out waves of heavy airstrikes across southern Beirut and the country's south and east, areas where Hezbollah has a strong presence. Hezbollah has fired hundreds of rockets, missiles and drones into Israel, including some that have reached the country's populous centre. Hamas-led militants stormed

into southern Israel on Oct 7 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking another 250 hostage. Around 100 of the captives are still held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians in Gaza and wounded tens of thousands, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were combatants but say more than half were women and children. It has also caused massive devastation across the territory and displaced around 90% of its population of 2.3

Two men plead guilty to murder of Air-India bombing suspect

14, 2022.

Two men accused of killing Ripudaman Singh Malik, a Sikh man acquitted in the tragic 1985 Air India Kanishka terrorist bombing case, have pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in a Canadian court, according to media reports. Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez entered the pleas in the British Columbia (BC) Supreme Court on Monday on the eve of their trial for the killing of 75-yearold Malik, who was shot several times outside his family business on the morning of July

Malik was shot dead in Surrey, British Columbia in 2022. He and co-accused Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted in 2005 of mass murder and conspiracy charges related to the two bombings in 1985 that killed

331 people. In the court in New Westminster on Monday, both Fox and Lopez pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of seconddegree murder, the Global News reported.

The court heard an agreed statement of facts that revealed the two men had been hired to kill Malik, the report added.

'What we know from the agreed statement of facts is that there was some type of financial incentive that was involved in the commission of this crime, but in terms of any other specifics, it is another one of those situations where unfortunately it is just something that we as people on the outside will probably never know," Lopez' lawyer Gloria Ng told Global

"One of the things we certainly have in the forefront of our minds is the youth of our client — Lopez is a very young man and we are certainly hopeful with prospects for rehabilitation.

In a statement, Malik's family described him as a "father, brother, husband and grandfather as well as a tireless com-munity leader," the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Monday.

While we are grateful that the shooters are being brought to justice, we know that nothing will erase the pain that we have gone through losing a family member in this way," the familv said.

"However, the work is not complete. Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez were hired to commit this murder. Until the parties responsible for hiring them and directing this assassination are brought to justice, the work remains incomplete."

The family called on the killers to "co-operate with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in bringing those that hired you to justice.

removal of

PTI DHAKA

deposed prime minister.

Shahabuddin said he does not

prime minister before she fled

The Anti-discrimination

spearheaded the campaign that led to the ouster of Hasina, ral-

lied in front of the Central

Shaheed Minar here, demand-

ing Shahabuddin's resignation. "The president is an ally of fas-

cism. He was in favour of genocide. We demand his resignation," Nasir Uddin Patwari,

Some of the protesters also said

that the president might face a

A group of protesters under the

banner of Shadhinota-

Shorbobhoumotto Rokkha

Committee (Committee to pro-

tect independence and sover-

eignty) also staged a sit-in protest at the Dhaka University

Shahabuddin's resignation and

calling for the termination of

the Constitution and the for-

mation of a "revolutionary

The protesters also demanded

the disbanding of Hasina's

Awami League party and its allies from political activities.

They later marched towards

Bangabhaban, the president's

official residence. A prominent

leader of the group, Rafiq

demanding

a protest leader, said.

campaign against him.

campus,

government".

student-led mass protests.

Crown and defence lawyers have agreed that Fox and Lopez should not be eligible for parole for 20 years. And they will next appear in court on October 31

for sentencing. The 1985 Air India bombing is among the worst terrorist attacks in Canadian history and in the history of the airline. On June 23, 1985, Air India flight 182, carrying 329 people, including 268 Canadian citizens and 24 Indian citizens, flew from Toronto and stopped in Montreal from where it was en route to London and then onwards to its final destination Bombay.

The plane was flying 31,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean when a suitcase bomb exploded in the front cargo, killing all on

Another bomb was meant to be planted in an Air India flight scheduled to take off from Japan but it exploded at Tokyo's Narita airport killing two bag-

gage handlers. Īnderjit Singh Reyat was convicted on various charges and spent 30 years in prison for helping to make the bombs, and for lying during trials, including Malik's. He was released in 2016 after serving two-thirds of his perjury sentence.

Reyat was the only person convicted for the Kanishka

Khan, called Shahabuddin a "culprit" as he was "unlawfully" appointed by "killer Hasina".

COMMENTS ON HASINA'S RESIGNATION

Protesters demand

B'desh president

China holds live-fire drills opposite Taiwan

hina is holding live-fire China is nothing included drills off the coast of its southern Fujian province facing Taiwan, just a week after a massive air-and-sea drill it called punishment for Taiwan's president rejecting Beijing's claims of sovereignty.
The live-fire drills were being

held near the Pingtan islands off Fujian province, according to a notice from the Maritime Safety Administration. It warned ships to avoid the area. It did not offer additional details

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said China's drills were part of an annual exercise and was tracking them. "It cannot be ruled out that it is one of the ways to expand the deterrent effect in line with the dynamics in the Taiwan Strait," the statement the US has continued what it calls "freedom of navigation"

Taiwan is a self-ruled island that Beijing claims is part of China. Tensions around the issue have flared in recent years. China has increased its presence in the waters and skies around Taiwan. It now increasingly sends large amounts of warplanes and navy vessels in military exercises near Taiwan and its coast guard carries out patrols. Last week, China held a one-

day military exercise aimed at practicing the "sealing off of key ports and key areas". Taiwan counted a record oneday total of 153 aircraft, 14 navy vessels and 12 Chinese government ships.

In response to Chinese moves, it would fight the request.

calls "freedom of navigation" transits through the Taiwan Strait. On Sunday, the destroyer USS Higgins and the Canadian frigate HMCS Vancouver transited the narrow band of ocean that separates China and Taiwan.

Germany sent two warships through the Taiwan Strait last month as it seeks to increase its defence engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. China has also exerted diplo-

matic pressure on Taiwan, poaching its allies. South Africa, which does not recognise Taiwan as a country, asked the island last week to move its liaison office outside the capital, Pretoria, as a concession to China. Taiwan on Monday said



hospital in a densely-populated neighborhood, in southern Beirut, on Tuesday

\mathbf{C}^{T} S Korea warns it may supply arms to Ukraine

AP SEOUL

South Korea warned Tuesday it could consider supplying weapons to Ukraine in response to North Korea allegedly dispatching troops to Russia, as both North Korea and Russia denied the movements.

The South Korean statement is apparently meant to pressure Russia not to bring in North Korean troops in its war against Ukraine. South Korean officials worry that Russia may reward North Korea by giving it sophisticated weapons technologies that can boost the North's nuclear and missile programs that target South Korea.

In an emergency National Security Council meeting, top South Korean officials condemned North Korea's alleged dispatch of troops as "a grave security threat" to South Korea and the international community. They described North Korea as "a

criminal group" that forces its youths to serve as Russian mercenaries for an unjustifiable war, the South Korean presidential office said in a statement.

The officials agreed to take phased countermeasures, linking the level of their responses to progress in Russian-North Korean military cooperation, according to the statement.

Possible steps include diplomatic, economic and military options, and South Korea could consider sending both defensive and offensive weapons to Ukraine, a senior South Korean presidential official told reporters on condition of anonymity in a back-

ground briefing.
The official said North Korea could attempt to get high-tech Russian technologies to per-fect its nuclear missiles. The official said Russia's possible help for North Korea's efforts to modernize its outdated conventional weapons sys-

tems and acquire a space-based surveillance system would pose a serious security threat to South Korea as well. North Korea and Russia intensify cooperation

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, South Korea has joined U.S.-led sanctions against Moscow and shipped humanitarian and financial support to Kyiv. But it has avoided directly supplying arms to Ukraine in line with its policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively engaged in conflicts.

South Korea's spy agency said last week it had confirmed that North Korea sent 1,500 special operation forces to Russia this month. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said his gov-ernment had intelligence that 10,000 North Korea soldiers were being prepared to join

invading Russian forces. North Korea and Russia have been sharply boosting their cooperation in the past two years. In June, they signed a major defense deal requiring both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance if either is attacked. South Korea said at the time it would consider sending arms to Ukraine, a similar statement that it made Tuesday.

South Korea's spy agency said that North Korea had sent more than 13,000 containers of artillery, missiles and other conventional arms to Russia since August 2023 to replenish its dwindling weapons stockpiles.

North Korea and Russia have denied the North Korean troop deployment as well as the purported weapons trans-

At a UN Security Council meeting Monday, Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia dismissed the South Korean assertion as well as Western allegations of Iran supplying Russia with missiles and China providing arms components. He accused the West of "circulating scaremongering with Iranian, Chinese and Korean bogeymen, each one of which is more absurd than the one before.

At a separate UN committee meeting, a North Korean diplomat said his delegation feels no need to comment on the troop dispatch, calling it "groundless, stereotype rumors aimed at smearing the image" of the North and undermining the legitimate cooperation between two sovereign states.

The US and NATO haven't confirmed North Korea's troop deployment, but they warned against the danger of such a development if true. US deputy ambassador to the UN Robert Wood said that if true, the North Korean troop dispatch marks "a dangerous and highly concerning development" and noted that the US was "consulting with our allies and partners on such a

| Pollution affects Lahore most

PTI LAHORE

Pakistan's cultural city Lahore been declared the most polluted city in the world, with an alarming Air Quality Index (AQI) of 394, and the Pakistan's Punjab government has planned for artificial rain to mitigate smog impact. The AQI is a measure of the concentration of various pollutants in the air. An AQI above 100 is considered unhealthy and above 150 "very unhealthy". The Smog crisis has been fuelled by crop residue burning and industrial emissions. The hazardous smog has led to widespread health issues among the city residents, including coughing, breathing difficulties, eye irritation, and skin infections. "Yesterday Lahore was declared the most polluted city in the world. We have taken a number of initiatives to address the matter and now we are planning for an artificial rain in the city," Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari told a press conference here on Tuesday.

A prominent students' organ-lisation, which spearhead-We request him to resign ed the protests against Sheikh immediately and vacate the Bangabhaban. Otherwise, we Hasina's government in Bangladesh, on Tuesday staged will start another movement demonstrations in Dhaka, like the one in July," he said. demanding the removal of President Mohammed In his interview with the Bangla Daily, Shahabuddin said he Shahabuddin over his comheard that Hasina had resigned as prime minister before she fled Bangladesh, but he does ment on the resignation of the In an interview with Bangla not have documentary evidaily Manab Zamin last week,

Despite numerous efforts, the have any documentary evidence of Hasina resigning as president said, he had failed to find any documents. "Perhaps she did not have the time, the country in August amidst Shahabuddin said.

Nobel laureate Muhammad 84, esh's inter Yunus, ment's Chief Adviser on August 8 after Prime Minister

Hasina fled to India on August Narrating the events of August 5, Shahabuddin told the daily that at around 10:30 am, a call came to Bangabhaban from Hasina's residence, informing him that Hasina would

meet him. However, "within an hour, another call came, saying she was not coming". Shahabuddin said before he administered the oath of office to Yunus and his advisory council members on August 8, he had sought the opinion of the Supreme Court, which advised him go ahead in view of the extraordinary situa-

The interim government's Law Affairs Adviser Asif Nazrul on Monday accused the president of "falsehood", saying his remarks were "tantamount to violation of his oath of office". He said if Shahabuddin remained firm on his comments, the interim government would need to think whether he was still qualified to hold his office.

Japanese police chief apologises to man acquitted after 50 years on death row

AP ■ TOKYO

A Japanese police chief on Monday apologised in person to Iwao Hakamada for his decades-long suffering that started from an overbearing investigation and wrongful conviction that had kept him on death row until last month, when he was acquitted in a retrial.

The 88-year-old Hakamada, a former boxer, was acquitted by the Shizuoka District Court, which said police and prosecutors had collaborated to fabricate and plant evidence against him, and forced him to confess with violent, hourslong closed interroga-tions. The acquittal was finalised earlier this month

when the prosecution waived its right to appeal — though it complained about the ruling — finally ending Hakamada's nearly 60-year legal battle to prove his inno-Shizuoka Prefectural Police

chief Takayoshi Tsuda on Monday visited Hakamada at his home and offered an apology in person. As he entered the room where Hakamada, his sister Hideko Hakamada and their sup-porter waited, Hakamada silently rose from his sofa to greet him.

'We are sorry to have caused you unspeakable mental distress and burden for as long as 58 years from the time of the arrest until the acquittal



Former Japanese death row inmate Iwao Hamakada (left) on being released from prison

was finalized," Tsuda said, as he stood straight in front of Hakamada and bowed deeply. "We are terribly sorry." Tsuda promised a "meticulous and appropriate investigation."

culty carrying out conversation due to his mental condition from the decades of death row confinement, responded: "What it means to have the authority ... Once you have the power, you're not supposed to grumble." Hakamada's 91-year-old sister, who had stood by her brother through the long process to clear his name and now lives with him, thanked the police chief for

visiting them.

"There is no use complaining to him after all these years. He was not involved in the case and he only came here as his duty," she told reporters afterward. "But I still accepted his visit just because I wanted (my brother) to have Hakamada, who has diffia clear break from his past as a death row inmate. He was arrested in August,

1966, in the killing of an executive at a miso bean paste company and three of his family members in Hamamatsu, central Japan. He was initially sentenced to death in a 1968 district court ruling but was not executed because of the lengthy appeal and retrial process in Japan. It took nearly three decades for the Supreme Court to

deny his first appeal for a retrial. His second appeal for a retrial, filed by his sister in 2008, was granted in 2014. The court ordered his release from his death row solitary cell but without removing his conviction, pending the retrial process. Hakamada was the world's longest-serving death row prisoner and only the fifth death row inmate to be acquitted in a retrial in postwar Japan, where criminal trials take years and retrials are extremely rare. His case and acquittal have triggered calls for more transparency in the investigation, legal change to lower hurdles for a retrial and debate over death penalty in Japan.

Pak's special parliamentary panel to nominate new chief justice

special parliamentary com-Amittee, formed to decide on the appointment of Pakistan's next chief justice, will meet on Tuesday to nominate the new top judge from among the three most senior Supreme Court judges.

The recently adopted 26th Constitutional Amendment brought numerous changes pertaining to the judiciary, among which is appointing the chief justice by a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) out of three top judges against the previous rule of the senior-most judge becoming the chief justice under the seniority principle

The incumbent chief justice, Qazi Faez Isa, is set to retire on

October 25 and under the old ment" of the outgoing CJ, rule, senior puisne judge, which sets the deadline for rule, senior puisne judge, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, was set to be the next chief.

Under amendments to clause 3 of Article 175A, instead of the president appointing the "most senior judge of the Supreme Court" as the chief justice, the top judge will now be "appointed on the recommendation of the Special Parliamentary Committee from amongst the three most senior" judges of the Supreme Court.

After Justice Shah, the next two senior apex court judges are Justices Munib Akhtar and Yahya Afridi. Under a new clause 3C of

Article 175A, the first nomination after the Amendment was in force is to be sent "within three days prior to the retirenomination by tonight.

The SPC comprises eight members of the national assembly and four senators nominated by their respective parliamentary leaders. Political parties have representation in the committee based on their strength in the parliament. The attorney general is also part of the com-

But the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf decided to stay away from the meeting of the SPC. "Of course, we will not be part of any parliamentary committee. We believe not only the amendments but in the manner they were passed itself was illegal," PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari said in a statement on X. "Why would we legitimise

them and be part of this mafia

ing in recent years.



nificant departure from the judiciary's long-held autonomy in determining its leadership. Apparently being tired of judicial overreach, the parliament tried to curtail the judiciary's influence in political and governance matters, which the courts were accused of exercis-

Sudanese military and had been operated by "jihadist mili-

It said it collected the aircraft's

black box "along with crucial

documents and intelligence

tions" that it did not publish.

Sudan has been unstable since

a popular uprising forced the

removal of longtime dictator

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Inderjit Singh S/o Kishan Singh R/o. DDA MIG Flat No. 107, Ground Floor, Pocket-23,

Sector-24, Rohini Delhi, Mob. 9682585752, Email

nderjitreen7@gmail.com, The owner of the DDA MIG Flat No. 107, Ground Floor, Pocket-23, Sector-24,

Rohini Delhi. The original papers i.e. Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC for Electricity

and Water Connection etc executed by DDA of above

said property has been lost. A FLR to this effect has been lodged to police station dt. 30/09/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in

possession of original document may write/contact

with above named person at above address within 15

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOCK E. WESTAREA, CHAM NAGAR, NEW BEL.

6059. by virtue of Notarized GPA, ATS & Wi
acted 01.02.2023, executed by Mr. Rakesh Pahuja in
me property to be sold to Intending Borrower i,
jay same to be finance by SMFG India Home Fina
o. Ltd. General public hereby informed that if anybr
so any charge-interestritle in the said propartyp kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigne.

The property of the pellow mentioned address with

writing on the below mentioned address with 07 days of the present. Rahul Raj Pathak, Advoca SG Associates (Law Firn FF 18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaibhak Khand, Indirayaran, Chazibad E-mail: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 012044403

SIGNALLING WORK

E-Tender Notice No.: N-2024-K-23;

vited by the undersigned for the

llowing work: SL. No.1; Tender No.

N-2024-K-23; Name of the work:

ignalling work for BG TTR (P) of the

existing 60 Kg rail 1 in 12 (FS) by 60 kg

in 12 (TWS) Pt No. 101 at Ambari

alakata yard, Pt No. 111, 113, 115, 116

at Belakoba yard, Pt No. 121, 122 at

Raninagar Jalpaiguri yard, BG TTR (P)

of the existing 52 kg rail 1 in 8.5 (FS) by

60 Kg 1 in 8.5 (FS) Pt No. 107, 108 at

Panjipara yard, Pt no. 108, 111 at Gaisal

ard, BG TTR (P) of the existing 60 kg

rail 1 in 12 (FS) by 60 Kg 1 in 12 (TWS)

with sleeper Pt No. 102, 103, 104, 105,

107, 125, 124, 123, 122, 121, 127 at

Ambari Falakata vard, Pt No. 101, 105,

106, 103 at Belakoba yard, Pt No. 101

102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 126, 124, 125,

127, 131 at Raninagar Jalpaiguri vard

under the jurisdiction of DEN/Line/

dated. 18-10-2024. E-tenders are

Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

tia groups".



Former NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (left) receives the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany from German President Frank-

Mystery of downed cargo airplane in Sudan deepens the aircraft belonged to the

The mystery surrounding a crashed cargo plane in Sudan purportedly downed by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces deepened on Tuesday as had been de-registered in

Kyrgyzstan. Just who was flying the Ilyushin Il-76 at night over war-torn Darfur remains in question. The aircraft previously was linked to an effort by the United Arab Emirates to arm the paramilitary force known as the RSF, something the UAE has strenuously denied despite

evidence to the contrary. But the plane's crash early Monday highlights the chaos gripping Sudan since April 2023, when the RSF and Sudan's military went to war.

Germany detects

Germany's disease control cen-

ter said Tuesday that a new,

more infectious variant of the

mpox virus has been detected

in Germany for the first time.

The Robert Koch Institute said

but didn't give any further

details, including on where the

The institute said it "is moni-

toring the situation very close-

ly and adjusting its recommen

The first case of the mpox virus

variant outside the African

continent was confirmed in

Sweden in mid-August. A case

was also reported in Thailand.

Organisation has declared that

the increasing spread of mpox

So far, the vast majority of cases

have been reported in Congo

Outbreaks of mpox are cur-

rently affecting 18 out of 55

countries in Africa and officials

there reported there had been

1,000 deaths as of last week

The total number of suspected

cases in Africa since the begin-

ning of the year now stands at

42,438, with 8,113 confirmed as

mpox, according to the Africa

Centres for Disease Control

and Prevention.

Health

Ch. No. 760

in Africa is a global health PUBLIC NOTICE

World

case was being treated.

dations if necessary".

emergency.

the person was infected abroad **PUBLIC NOTICE**

first Mpox case

AP ■ BERLIN

online showed RSF fighters among the plane's burning wreckage, claiming they shot it down with a surface-to-air

Identity documents shown included a Russian passport and an ID that linked to a UAE-based company, whose phone number was disconnected.

The Russian Embassy in Sudan since Monday has been investigating.

A crumpled safety card, also purportedly from the aircraft, identified the plane as flown by

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client Sh. Ashok Sharm owner of the PLOT NO-105-C AREA 50 SQ YAI DS MUSTATIL NO-11, KILLA NO-12, VILLAG MATIALA COLONY KNOWN AS MANSA RAN PARK A-BLOCK UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELH and Sh.Ashok Sharma purchase plot from Shatyawan vide Notarized GPA, ATS and wild ated 10.06.2003 Now Sh. Ashok Sharm wants to sell plot. And It is informed that and all with said documents by any person excep my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as multipard water and said property.

if any person having any claim, right in sai property then he may contact and handove the same and apprise his claim to undersigne

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mobile :- 9899013918

nown to all that my client Smt. Seema Singh wner of the Property No. P-35, area 58 sq

ds.Khasra no.30/22.23 and 24.Villago

Hastsal, Colony Vikas Nagar extn, Block-C, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi and Smt. Seema Singh purchase plot from Sh. Ramesh Chand

vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will date: 21.03.2012 Now Smt. Seema Singh wants to sell plot. And It is informed that any deal wit

aid documents by any person except my said

lient and said institution garding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. I

iny person having any claim, right in said

property then he may contact and handove the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this Publication.

60 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, Nev Mobile :- 9899013918

Known to all that my client Sh.Manish Garg Owner of the First Floor LHS Side Without Roof Right Area 1391 Sq. ft Property No-30 And 31-A, Area 125.45q Mtrs KhasraNo-28/10, Village Kakrola, Bharat Vihar A-Block, Kakrola New Delhi and Sh.Manish Garg Purchase Plot From Sh. Hans Raj Goyal Vide Notarized GPA,ATS And Will Dated 08.05.2024 thereafter Sh.Manish Garg execute Conveyance deed (PM Mauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana CEI in his favour by DDA vide conveyance deed no.2024/16/1/9721 dated 23.07.2024.And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and daprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New De
Mobile :- 9899013918

in 8 days of this Publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

Sector Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-7

Their conflict has killed over New Way Cargo of Kyrgyzstan. 24,000 people, forced millions However, Zuurakan Kadyrova to flee their homes and has left of New Way Cargo told The some families eating grass in a Associated Press on Tuesday desperate attempt to survive as that her firm's lease of the airfamine sweeps parts of the craft expired at the end of 2023.

> records regarding the aircraft," she said. "We are saddened by the news of the incident that occurred in Sudan and express our condolences to the crew and their families."

Kyrgyzstan's state-run Kabar news agency separately reported, citing the country's Foreign Ministry, that the plane had been removed from its aircraft registry in January this year "and transferred to the registration of the Republic of Sudan" No Kyrgyz nationals died in the crash, the report said.

For its part, the RSF maintained

Sr. DEE/G & Chg./Katiha NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. EL/29/ 16_2024/K/835 Dated: 17-10 2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works Tender No. 16 2024. Name of work: At Katihar Division:- Escorting operation and troubleshooting of AC coaches from source to destination and back in Primary based Trains at Katihar/Balurghat/New Jalpaiguri Kishangani depot for three years Tender Value: ₹5,73,35,744.31/-

www.ireps.gov.in.

RFP FOR CONDUCTING INVESTMENT **GRADE ENERGY AUDIT**

15 2024/K/834: dated: 17-10-2024. Etenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No 15 2024: Name of work: Request for Proposal (Rfp) for conducting Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA) at Katihar Division (Phase-II). Tender Value: ₹8,36,840.00; Earnest Money ₹16.800.00. E-tender will be closed a 15:00 hrs.on 11-11-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 11-11-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 11-11-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in.

ESCORTING, OPERATION AND TROUBLESHOOTING OF AC COACHES

Earnest Money: ₹4,36,700/-. Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 11-11-2024 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 11-11-2024. The complete information with tender documents o above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 11-11-2024 in website

Sr. DEE (G&Chg), Katiha NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Katihar. Tender Value: ₹78,48,286.81; Earnest Money: ₹1,57,000,00, E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 11-11-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above eender will be available upto 15.00 hrs of 11-11-2024 in website http:// www.ireps.gov.in

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

DRM (S&T), Katihar

Yellen says isolationism 'made America and world worse off'

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is telling world financial leaders that the US economy has grown stronger because the Biden administration rejected isolationism, offering a barely veiled criticism of former President Donald Trump's policies two weeks before the US election. Yellen was opening the IMF and World Bank annual meetings on Tuesday by highlighting US economic growth since the nation was in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. Without mentioning Trump by name, she said in an advance draft of her remarks that the Biden administration had ended a period of international isolationism that "made America and the world worse off". "We went from millions having lost their jobs to a historic labour market recovery," Yellen says. She said US economic growth has been "almost this profession of the same that the same to the same twice as fast as most other advanced economies this year and last, even as inflation came down sooner".

The IMF released its international outlook on the global economy on Tuesday morning and upgraded its economic outlook for the United States

expectations for growth in

Europe and China.
The IMF expects the US economy — the world's largest — to expand 2.8 per cent this year, down slightly from 2.9 per cent in 2023 but an improvement on the 2.6 per cent it had forecast for 2024 back in July. Growth in the United States has been led by strong consumer spending, fuelled by healthy gains in inflation-adjusted

The meetings mark the last major international finance gathering held during the Biden administration and come as economic issues are a top concern for American voters. Republicans have blamed the Biden-Harris administration for inflation that reached a 40year high before dropping. Trump campaign press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that the Biden-Harris administration "created an inflation crisis, record-high gas prices, skyrocketing mortgage and interest rates resulting in the lowest consumer and small business confidence in decades". Voters remain largely divided

over whether they prefer the Republican nominee, Trump,

President Kamala Harris to handle key economic issues, according to an October survey by The Associated Press-NORC Centre for Public

Affairs Research. Who wins the US election will also have enormous impacts on global finance and the world's economy.

Trump and Harris have spoken little about their plans for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. But they have differing views on trade, tariffs and other economic issues. Trump has been scepti-cal of world financial bodies and is promising heavy tariffs if elected. Harris is more likely to continue the Biden administration approach favouring international cooperation over threats, though she has supported some tariffs. Yellen, like other federal offi-

cials, is barred from partisan political activity by the Hatch Act and chose her words carefully in her speech. But she praised Biden-Harris initiatives on climate, health care, infrastructure spending and other areas.

She alluded to Trump's international leadership saying: "From day one, we rejected isolation-

world worse off and pursued global economic leadership that supports economies around the world and brings significant benefits to the American people and the US economy

Trump, who has embraced isolationism and criticised multilateral institutions, promises as president to impose a 60 per cent tariff on all Chinese goods and a "universal' tariff of 10 per cent or 20 per cent on everything else that enters the United States, insisting that the cost of taxing imported goods is absorbed by the foreign countries that produce those goods. Mainstream economists say that would amount to a tax on American consumers that would make the economy less efficient and send inflation surging in the United States.

The Biden-Harris administration has not eliminated tariffs imposed on China during the Trump administration and in May also slapped major tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, advanced batteries, solar cells, steel, aluminum and medical

Sweden to honour Blinken

AP STOCKHOLM

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and former NATO secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg will be knighted in Sweden for their role in enabling the Scandinavian country to join the world's largest military alliance.

It was a historic realignment of Europe's post-Cold War security landscape triggered by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Blinken and Stoltenberg along with former Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin and for-mer Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto will receive the Royal Order of the Polar Star, given to foreign citizens and stateless persons "for extraordinary efforts for Swedish inter-"The awards are an expression of our great gratitude for the efforts of these people in connection with Sweden's membership in NATO," Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Tuesday. after Finland. Both ended decades of post-World War II neutrality and centuries of broader non-alignment with major powers.

Plot No. 5, PSP Pocket, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi Tel: 011-45681521 / 8383818700 FOUND CHILDREN-DISPLACED FROM PARENTS

MAMTA"

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, DELHI



Name: Arradhya Sex : Female DOB: 6 Years DOA: 21/06/2024 Complexion: Fair Height:125 cm

of the child please contact the above Address

PUBLIC NOTICE Portion) without roof rights, "said floor" part Plot bearing No. 73/A, land area measuring 1: So, yds. (out of total plot 250 sq. yds.), part (Khasra No. 13/11, situated in Village Kamalpi, Majra Burari, Bhagat Colony, Gali No. 8, A-Block, West Sant Nagar, Burari, Delh hereinafter referred to as the "said property". Be it known to all that our client, Mr. Amites Kumar (hereinafter called the "Purchaser intends to purchase the said floor from M Pawan Singh and Mr. Rajender Sing (hereinafter called the Attorney Holder). In this connection, the Attorney Holder have informed the purchaser that they are the joint courses. ame the sole and absolute owner of the s operty and transferred the said property vour of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Rana. The Attorne older has also informed the purchaser that the aid floor is not mortgaged anywhere and the s no charge or dispute or any litigation pendi

person including Bank/s, Financ aution/s, relative/s having any claim, ric nstitution/s. relative/s having any claim, rightle or any interest of any nature whatsoever intrupon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upo to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 15 days of publication of thi otice and in the event of no response havi een received to the notice, the title of the ttorney Holder to the said floor shall be deeme to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of an nature whatsoever and any subsequent clain shall not bind our client/Purchaser, in an Shivkant Arora, Advocate

N-74, LGF, Defence Colony,

Initial report shows Liam Payne had cocaine in his system when he died AP BUENOS AIRES widely reported in local media

An initial toxicology report for ex-One Direction singer Liam Payne, who died last week after falling from a third-floor hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, showed that he had cocaine in his system after his death, an Argentine official said. The final toxicology results are

not expected to be made public for some weeks. But the preliminary toxicology report of the wildly famous boy band star, handed to local prosecutors on Monday, suggested evidence of exposure to cocaine, the official said, stressing that these initial results don't offer an accurate reading of just how much was circulating in his blood when he

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief journalists. The preliminary report was on Monday. Argentina's public prosecution is

investigating the case — which is not uncommon when a death is sudden or unexpected. Payne's autopsy concluded that

the traumatic injuries that caused his death were consistent with his three-story fall from the hotel window. Prosecutors have ruled out anyone else being involved. Argentine investigators found what appeared to be narcotics

and alcohol strewn about broken objects and furniture in 31vear-old Payne's hotel room, leading the public prosecution to surmise Payne had suffered a substance abuse-induced breakdown around the time of his fall. The prosecution said Payne could have plunged from his hotel room balcony in a state of "semi or total uncon-

sciousness." Photos purportedly taken from inside Payne's hotel room published by local media showed snowlike powder left on a table and a smashed-in TV screen. Police also discovered a blister pack of clonazepam, a central nervous system depressant, and overthe-counter medications scattered among Payne's belongings. Shortly before Payne's death, the hotel manager called 911 to report a guest acting aggressively and under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Investigators are also trying to figure out who sold Payne the drugs he took at the CasaSur Hotel in Palermo, a chic neighborhood of the Argentine capital. Police have taken statements from at least three hotel employees, as well as two women who visited Payne's hotel room a few hours before his death.

CORRIGENDUM NO-2 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: N_7_HQ_EPC_ EI_2024-25 DTD. 18-10-2024 Corrigendum No. 2 has been

issued against Tender No. N_7_HQ_EPC_EI_2024-25. New Item Added: Document Description: SN-1: Corrected EPC Document; File Name: CorrEI18.10.20241.pdf; SN-2: Tentative Drawing for SnT Service Building; File Name : EISERVICEBUILDINGTYPICAL DRG1.pdf; For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in.

GM(S&T), Maligaor NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile perty No. 315 and 316, area measuring 54.3 Mirs., Situated at Katra Munshi, Gau niker, also known as Naya Katra, Chandi wk, Delhi, owned the same by virtue of Sal ad dated 10.04.2019 (vide Documer

Deed dated 10.04.2019 (vide Documer No.3574) and intend to mortigage against the financial assistance from UGRO Capital Limite That 1). Sale Deed dated 10.01.1997 executed the Mrs. Chameli Devi Kanodia in favour of Mrs. Anil Dawar, vide Document no.201. Book no.I., Volum 0.7417, pages no.76-82, dated 10.01.1997 ar 2). Sale Deed dated 17.04.2008 wide Documen 0.2602, Book no.I., Volumen no.2502, on page 142-150, dated 17.04.2008 are Lost/Misplace Not available. To comoty the requirements 142-150, dated 17.04.2008 are Lost/Misplace Not available. To comply the requirements BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice this farny Person having any type of claim/right/till interest/creating mortgage over the said proper may inform in writing, at the address mentions below, about his objections, within 07 days fro today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LL Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Par cumbrances, lien etc. Plot No.136, (Base

Sq. Yds., Khasra No.660, Situated at Modern Railway City, Village Duryai, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam, Budh Nagar, U.P. from Mrs. Pushpa Devi who became owner vide Sale Deed dated 08.12.2022 (Doc. No.42590) executed by Mrs. Anshu Aggarwal and same to be finance & mortgage by Ummeed Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. (Noida). That, in Sale Deed Finance Pvt. Ltd. (Noida). That, in Sale Deed dated 08.12.2022(Doc. No.42590) Plot no. A-56 wrongly mentioned instead of Correct Plot No. A-55, executed by Mrs. Anshu Aggarwal in favour of Mrs. Pushpa Devi. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/titlle/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned bellow about bis objections within? mentioned below, about his objections, within a days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said properly is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-938, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2.Noida.UP-201301Contact#0120-4269379

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER OF THE MAESTRO MULTI STATE COOPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD. D-24, GREENVIEW APARTMENTS, SECTOR-9, ROHINI, DELHI -110085

Election Program for the Board of Directors TIME Sr.No. **PARTICULARS** DATE Publication of Provisional List of 16th October, 2024 11:00 a.m Members eligible (Wednesday) Time Window for Raising Objections to the Provisional List 17th-19th October, 2024 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Thursday to Saturday) (Every Day) Scrutiny of objection received to 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 20th-23rd Oct., 2024 (Sunday to Wednesday) Publication of Final List of 24th October, 2024 3:00 p.m. Member Eligible to Vote (Thursday) 25th-28th October, 2024 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Issue and Filling of Nomination Form (Friday to Monday) (Every Day) Display on Notice Board of 28th October, 2024 5:00 p.m Society (at a conspicuous place) Nomination Forms received by Returning Officer 29th October, 2024 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Scrutiny of received Nomination Forms Publication of List of Valid 29th October, 2024 5:00 p.m. Nominations (Tuesday) Withdrawal of Nominations 2nd-6th Nov., 2024 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Every Day) (Saturday-Wednesday) Publication of Final List of 5:00 p.m. 10. 6th November, 2024 Contesting Candidates (Wednesday) 08:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and all Date of Polling if Necessary 10th November, 2024 (Sunday) those who have entered the polling station at 2:00 p.m. or before will be allowed to cast vote. 10th November, 2024 Counting of Votes Immediately after the polling (Sunday) After approval of Cooperative Election Authority New Delhi on Declaration of Results of Board of Directors 1th November, 2024 (Monday) Format 19M Election Program of Office Bearers

Announcement of Election 14th Nov. 2024 (Thursday) After Declaration of Result of Schedule:
(i) Time window for filing
Nomination
(ii) Time window for withdrawal 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 2:00p.m.to 3:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m. (iii) Display of list of the Contesting candidate 11.00 a.m. onwards Meeting of Newly Constituted Board & Publication of List for 15th November, 2024 (Friday valid Nominations, Polling (if necessary) After approval of Cooperative Election Authority, New Delhi on Declaration of Result of Election of Office Bearers

Returning Officer, DM, North West Delh

India well positioned to capitalise growth opportunities: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

global l environment may present challenges but India is well positioned to capitalise on new growth opportunities, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has underlining that as nations re-evaluate their supply chains, India hopes to become a key partner for many countries seeking to diversify their sources of goods and

made Sitharaman remarks on Monday while delivering a special lecture on 'India's Economic Resilience and Prospects Amidst A Challenging and Uncertain Global Environment' at Columbia University here.

She said that India is looking towards boosting domestic capacities, and building resilience against external shocks.

"While the past decades saw global growth led by broad multilateral trade, the coming years, I think, will likely be defined by strategic economic partnerships and India is very well poised to take advantage of this transition.'

She said that the global economic environment may present challenges, but "India is well positioned to capitalise on new growth opportunities. "The shift towards a more fragmented global economy, characterised by redefined alliances and changing trade patterns, could in fact work to



India's advantage. As nations re-evaluate their supply chains, India hopes to become key partner for many countries seeking to diversify their sources of goods and services," she said at the lecture organised by the Deepak and Neera Raj Center on İndian Economic Policies at Columbia's School of International and Public

Sitharaman arrived in New York Sunday from Mexico where she had chaired the Tech Leaders Roundtable in Guadalajara. She had also visited the TCS headquarters in Guadalajara.

In New York, she addressed a Roundtable on 'Investment of Opportunities in India' at the New York Stock Exchange and participated in a fireside chat on India's decadal

reforms economic growth with IBM Chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna.

From New York, Sitharaman will head to Washington DC to participate in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the 4th G20 Finance Ministers and Bank Governor Central (FMCBG) Meetings, besides the G20 Joint Meeting of Environment FMCBGs. Ministers, and Foreign Ministers; and G7 - Africa Ministerial Roundtable. Sitharaman noted that it may

be an understatement that we are living through times profound uncertainty, which is steadily rising before

"The world today grapples with multiple challenges, such was the 10th largest economy and presently, it is the fifth largest economy. The International Monetary

Fund has projected it to become the third-largest economy by 2027. "India's contribution to global growth is projected to see an increase of 200 basis points in the next five years," she said.

She further stressed that India's trade policies have also undergone significant reform, with a focus on facilitation and greater integration with key economic partners. India fostering a more competitive and exportoriented economy trade free pursuing agreements with nations like the UAE and Australia, alongside initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive schemes and One One Product District schemes.

"Furthermore, India must continue to strengthen its position in the geopolitical landscape. As the world undergoes a realignment of power dynamics, emerging economies like India would need to navigate complex international relationships. This would require a nuanced approach to diplomacy where economic interests are balanced with strategic she said adding concerns," as countries look inwards, globally there is the added risk of regress towards de-industrialisation. She said India's rise in the

its growing influence in sectors like high-end capital goods, renewables pharmaceuticals, signal its potential to become a vital player in global markets. Another vital aspect of the

policy agenda has been the strengthening of India's financial sector. The soundness of our banking system marked by low levels of NPAs (nonperforming assets) and enhanced provisioning for bad loans reflects the reforms we have undertaken to improve asset quality," she said. She added that by 2047, as

India celebrates 100 years of independence, "we will have a chance to define a new era of prosperity, not just for our own citizens, but for the global community as well. "India's role in the world is expanding, and we stand ready engage constructively with the international community, sharing our innovations and contributing to global peace and prosperity," she said, as she cited the example of the COVID-19 pandemic during

by it to nations across the world. "The coming decades will be defined by how effectively India manages its dividend, demographic strengthens its global partnerships, and navigates the complexity of a rapidly changing world," she said.

which India supplied vaccines

developed and manufactured

Insurance industry can use ecommerce, telecom network to distribute policies: LIC chief



Ctate-owned life insurance Sbehemoth LIC's chief executive and managing director Siddhartha Mohanty on Tuesday pitched for using the e-commerce and telecom network to distribute policies deep in the country.

'As we are serious about 'insurance for all', we must rethink how we distribute and market insurance products, Mohanty said, speaking at an event organised by CII here. He said the current channels including agents, brokers, and bancassurance have been effective, but fraught with its own limitations given the challenge of taking insurance to each citizen of the country. Specifically, the current models have "limitations" to taking insurance to the vast and underserved rural market, the LIC executive said, adding that the future is in opening non-traditional channels.

"Collaborating with nontraditional players, such as telecom companies, fintech firms and e-commerce platforms, we can significantly

"These organisations have unparalleled access to remote underbanked communities. By partnering with them, we can ensure that affordable and accessible coverage is available to all," he

added. Adopting a newer approach will hugely increase the spectrum of insurance products across the insurers that will be available for sale to meet the varied needs of the customers, he said, stressing that reaching over a billion

people "is no easy task". Moĥanty also said that digital technologies should be a key to reaching rural and lowincome groups and sought regulatory support to ensure that any innovations are "nurtured and appropriately".

Technologies and platforms like artificial intelligence, machine learning automation revolutionising the entire

insurance sector and making it more customer-friendly, he

Consumers worried about data breaches: PwC India survey

onsumers are worried Cabout data breaches, and a large number of them are not aware of their rights related to personal data, According to a PwC India

The PwC Survey on Data Privacy offers vital insights from 3,233 consumers and organisations across exploring awareness and

implementation Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), the consultancy firm said.

As per the survey report titled 'How aware and prepared are Indian consumers and businesses to navigate the new era of digital privacy?? A survey of India's data privacy landscape', 42 per cent of consumers are not sure if they will continue using the services of a company post a

"This rate is higher in Tier-1 cities at 46 per cent. Although 52 per cent of organisations planning additional controls around security personal data, technology alone won't solve the compliance issue," PwC India

data breach.



said.

The survey also showed that only 16 per cent of consumers are aware of the DPDP Act across diverse geographies, age groups, occupational backgrounds and urban-rural

Sivarama Krishnan, Partner & Leader - Risk Consulting, PwC India and Leader of APAC Cyber Security and Privacy, PwC opined that the DPDP Act 2023 will play a critical role as India transitions to a high-growth digital economy.

"Our engagement with over 3,000 consumers across the country and with around 200 corporates reveals the significant gap in

understanding of the basic tenets of privacy among all," Krishnan said.

The survey also found that 56 per cent of consumers are not aware of their rights related to personal data and 69 per cent are not aware of their rights to take back their consent.

Anirban Sengupta, Leader and Partner, Business and Technology Risk, PwC India said that in India, sectors that are regulated and direct-toconsumer show maturity in privacy mechanisms yet, concerns about privacy laws

enforcement. "The need of the hour is a cultural shift towards prioritising data privacy, necessitating active from both participation businesses and consumers to foster a privacy-conscious environment," Sengupta added.PwC India said the survey also throws light on the urgent need for ecommerce, social media and technology sector to focus on educating the age group of 18-30 years on digital privacy, consent management, protection of personal information and consequences of data sharing

Reliance Infrastructure to launch Dhirubhai Ambani Defence City



PNS MUMBAI

 $R^{\text{eliance Infrastructure on}}_{\text{Tuesday}} \ \ \text{announced}$ announced of Dhirubhai setting up Defence Ambani (DADC) integrated project Manufacturing of Explosives, Ammunition and Small Arms in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. The company has been allotted 1000 acres of Land in Watad Industrial Area of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra to develop DADC. It will be the

as the conflict in the Middle

East and between Russia and

destabilising events such as

the dollar liquidity shocks,

increases in global tariffs due

to trade wars and oil price

shocks - all at the same time.

In addition to these events,

the emergence of a veritable

China terms of trade, and that

as a shock, has made it

necessary for countries to

take measures to safeguard

their domestic production,

Sitharaman stressed that

despite an increasingly

complex global environment,

'sound", acting as a strong

foundation upon which to

She said that in 2013, India

macro-economic

remain

There's also a

other

Ukraine.

she said.

fundamentals

build future growth.

possibility

largest GREENFIELD project in Defence Sector in India by any Private Sector company. Reliance Infrastructure will invest over Rs. 10,000 Cr over the next 10 years. Reliance Infrastructure through its subsidiaries has exported defence equipment worth more than Rs. 1,000 Cr over a period of time.

Infrastructure's Reliance wholly owned subsidiaries Jai

Armaments Limited and Reliance Defence Limited already have license from India Govt of manufacturing of Arms and Ammunition. The proposed Projects envisage Joint Ventures with up to six leading Global Defence Companies.

Ammunition range to include Small, Medium & Large Caliber and Terminally Guided Munition (TGM) Small Arms portfolio will address the export markets, both Civil and Military applications Reliance already has successful Joint Ventures (JVs) at MIHAN, Nagpur, Maharashtra with two of the leading Global Defence companies Dassault Aviation and Thales of France.

Dassault Reliance Aerospace Limited (DRAL) and Thales Reliance Defence Systems (TRDS) export 100% of their production.

India likely to grow at 7.2 per cent: RBI Deputy Governor

PTI NEW YORK

India's GDP growth is I projected at 7.2 per cent in 2024-25, around 7 per cent in the next fiscal, and after that, there is a strong likelihood that the growth will revert to the 8 per cent trend, said Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Michael Debabrata

He was speaking at the New York Fed Central Banking Federal Reserve Bank here on

Monday ...I do believe with all the strength of my conviction that India's time has come," he said, and highlighted the country heads into its future with the youngest population in the world with a median age of 28 years.

Unlike in many parts of the world, the working age population is growing -every sixth working age person is an Indian.

since Patra said that independence in 1947, India's growth path has undergone three structural shifts with trend growth, having risen to 7 per cent during 2002-2019. After the severe contraction



during the pandemic, a new growth trajectory averaging 8 per cent seems to be forming during 2021-24, he said. fastest growing economy in the world.

Already the fifth largest economy in terms of market exchange rates, it is poised to become the third largest economy by 2030, the senior RBI official said and added the country is already the third largest economy in terms of purchasing power

Our projections show that India's real GDP growth will be 7.2 per cent in 2024-25 and around 7.0 per cent in 2025-26 in a cyclical correction to the rebound from the pandemic. Thereafter, there is a strong likelihood that India's growth will revert to the 8 per cent trend," Patra

On inflation, he said it is projected to average 4.5 per cent in 2024-25 and 4.1 per

Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation fell below target during July-August but rose to 5.5 per cent in September on the back of a pickup in price momentum in some food items and adverse base effects inherent in yearon-year measurement.

Our projection indicates that these price pressures will persist in October and November before headline inflation realigns with the target from December 2024 and remains aligned in 2025-26," the deputy governor said. He also emphasised that India is emerging as a world leader leveraging digital technologies transformative change.

Adani Group to acquire Orient Cement

without thought

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani-led Adani Group on Tuesday said it will acquire CK Birla group firm Orient Cement at a valuation of Rs 8,100 crore, as part of its expansion drive.

With this acquisition Adani Cement will achieve a capacity of 100 MT (million tones) per annum by end of FY25 and a gain of 2 per cent in the overall market share in the country.

Adani Cement has signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of Orient Cement Ltd (OCL) at an equity value of Rs. 8,100 crore.

As per that, its step down unit "Ambuja will acquire 46.8 per cent shares of OCL from its current promoters and certain public shareholders", according to a joint statement. The acquisition will be fully funded through internal

accruals, it added The latest acquisition will add 16.6 MTPA capacity to the



growth-hungry Adani group firm, which operates through Ambuja Cements in the

Besides, this deal will also help Adani group, which is aspiring to have 140 MTPA capacity by FY28, reduce the overall logistics costs for the cement business and improve market share.

Adani had June, announced the acquisition of Penna Hvderabad-based Cement at an enterprise value Ambuja Cements' accelerated of Rs 10,422 crore, which growth journey, increasing

the country's second largest cement manufacturer.

In December last year, it completed the acquisition of Sanghi

Saurashtra-based Industries Ltd at an enterprise value of Rs 5,185 crore. Commenting over the latest development Ambuja Cements Director Karan Adani said: "This timed acquisition marks another

significant step forward in

cement capacity by ~30 MTPA within two years of Ambuja's acquisition. By acquiring OCL, Ambuja is poised to reach 100 MTPA

cement capacity in FY25, he added. "The acquisition will help to expand Adani Cement's presence in core markets and improve its pan-India market share by 2 per cent," Adani

added. OCL has 5.6 MTPA of clinker capacity and 8.5 MTPA of cement capacity along with the statutory clearance to increase the clinker capacity by another 6.0 MTPA and cement capacity by another

8.1 MTPA C K Birla, Chairman of Orient Cement and the CK Birla Group, said, "The CK Birla Group is continuously reallocating capital to sharpen its focus on consumercentric, technology-driven service-based

businesses." "We are confident that the Adani Group, with its strong infrastructure, is the ideal new owner to drive continued growth at Orient Cement for our people and stakeholders, he said.

Adani Group entered into the cement sector in September after acquiring controlling stakes in Ambuja Cement from Swiss firm Holcim for cash proceeds of USD 6.4 billion (about Rs 51.000 crore). Ambuja Cements owns a 51 per cent stake in ACC Ltd. Later it also launched a Rs

31,000-crore open offer for the acquisition of 26 per cent additional stakes from public shareholders. According to data from the

Cement Manufacturers Association, the country has a total of 541 metric tonnes (MT) of installed cement capacity.

The Indian cement market is led by Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement Ltd. which has a consolidated capacity of

Power Grid board approves raising up funds via bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power Grid board on Tuesday approved_a proposal to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore through issuance of bonds on private placement basis. The base issue size of the bonds is Rs 1,000 crore with additional 'Green Shoe Option' of Rs 4,000 crore."Committee of Directors for bonds in their meeting held today i.E. On 22nd October, 2024 approved the raising bonds unsecured. Nonconvertible,

on

crore

cumulative, redeemable, taxable, POWERGRID taxable, POWERGKID Bonds...Up to Rs 5,000 crore on private placement basis," it stated. Bonds are redeemable at par at the end of 10th year and interest payment on yearly basis. The bonds will be listed on BSE/NSE.

INBRIEF

JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE-LECTURE SERIES II AT GNDU

AMRITSAR: Jallianwala Bagh Chair of Guru Nanak Dev University has started the lecture Series on the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. The Second Lecture was delivered by Prof. Sukdev Singh Sohal, Former Prof. & Head, Department of History & Chairperson Ghdar Chair, Guru Nanak Dev University. Jallianwala Bagh Chair initiated Jallianwala Bagh Lecture Series with a new to focus on the events associated with the Massacre on April



N. F. RAILWAY TO OPERATE FOUR DIESEL SPECIAL JOYRIDES



MALIGAON: The Northeast Frontier Railway has decided to operate four Diesel special Jovrides under the toy train service of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) between Darjeeling and Ghum from 21 st October to 05 th December, 2024 on daily basis to cater the passenger rush during the peak season .It may be noted that DHR, a UNESCO World Heritage Site witnesses footfall of thousands of local as well as foreign tourists during this peak season.

India eye Paris revenge against Germany in Test series as international hockey returns to Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

nternational hockey will return to the capital after a 10-year gap when Olympic bronze-medallists India take on world champions Germany in a two-Test bilateral series starting here on Wednesday, aiming to test some new faces and extract revenge for a recent heartbreak inflicted by the visitors.

For the last 10 years, the capital's Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, once considered the spiritual home of the game, has not hosted any international match.

The last game played here was the 2014 Hero World League Final, although departmental hockey has been held here occasionally. But the two Tests against the world No.2 and Paris Olympics silver-winning outfit on Wednesday and Thursday would be a perfect comeback for the sport.

It has been learnt that over 12,000 fans have already registered for the free tickets on offer through a private ticketing portal. The National Stadium has a seating capacity of just over 16,000. The two Tests hold great



significance Indian hockey, which is on an upswing following back-toback Olympic bronze medals in Tokyo and Paris.

In the French capital, the Indians, under the talismanic and in-form Harmanpreet Singh's leadership, lost 2-3 to Germany in a closelycontested semifinal. "This series is not just about

the two teams playing; it's about reviving the spirit of hockey in Delhi. We hope this will inspire more young players from the region to take up the game," Harmanpreet had said after the rubber was announced.

opportunity to avenge their loss in Paris. But the Germans will be a hard nut to crack as they are the reigning world champions and displayed that fortitude in Paris, going down only in the shoot-out to Netherlands in

That sentiment aside, India

also have a very good

Going by rankings, the Germans are favourites as India are currently placed fifth in the world but in modern hockey, there is hardly any difference hardly any difference between the top 10 teams and anyone can beat a high-

the gold medal match.

placed rival on their day. In the last five encounters between the two sides, India hold an edge, having won three and lost two.

India have been on a high since the Paris Olympics. A new-look team retained the Asian Champions Trophy title in September, beating hosts China 1-0 in the final. That was India's fifth ACT

The Indians have fielded a mix of youth and experience for the two matches, thereby highlighting chief coach Craig Fulton's vision of planning for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
The most notable inclusion in

the squad is defender and drag-flicker Varun Kumar, who is returning after a sabbatical from the game that was forced by allegations of sexual harassment by a junior volleyball player. His name has since been cleared in the

The Indians will be led by star drag-flicker Harmanpreet, who is enjoying the form of his life and mid-fielder Vivek Sagar Prasad will be his deputy.

The hosts, however, will continue to miss the services of mid-field mainstay Hardik Singh, who is still recovering from an injury he sustained at the Olympics.

Fulton drafted in some new faces in mid-fielder Rajinder Singh and striker Aditya Arjun Lgale, who will be making their international debut. Besides Vivek, veteran Manpreet Singh will be in charge of the mid-field.

Striker Mandeep Singh, who was rested for the ACT, will look to dazzle upfront in the company of Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, and Dilpreet Singh among others.

The Indian goal will be manned by Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera, who lived up to expectations in the ACT in Hulunbuir, China after the legendary PR Sreejesh's retirement.

The two matches will provide newcomers comeback-men a chance to prove their mettle in front of the team management and national selectors.



American Sofia Kenin advances to second round at Pan Pacific Open in Japan

Former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin has extended her perfect record against Wang Xinyu, beating the 10th-seeded Chinese player 6-1, 6-4 in a firstround match at the Pan Pacific Open on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old American, who won the Australian Open in 2020 and was a French Open finalist the same year, won her fourth straight match over Wang. Her previous victories over Wang Wang were twice at Wimbledon - in 2021 and 2023 - and at Auckland, New Zealand last year.

Garbiñe Kenin beat Muguruza in the Melbourne Park Grand Slam singles final in 2020 and lost to Iga Swiatek in the French Open final a few months later. After her Australian Open win, she achieved her highest

ranking of No. 4, but a series of injuries over the past several years has seen her ranking slip to her current No. 155. She also had to withdraw from the 2021 US Open due to COVID-19. Kenin was joined in the second round by Canadians Bianca Andreescu, who beat Serena Williams for the US

Open title in 2019, and Leylah Fernandez, who won their opening matches Monday. The top-seeded player in the Pan Pacific this year is Olympic gold medalist Zheng



Zverev sympathises after routing local wild card in Vienna

AP VIENNA

No. 3-ranked Alexander Zverev was sympathetic for Joel Schwaerzler after hammering the 18-year-old wild card in his hometown debut at the Erste Bank Open. Zverev won by a quick 6-2, 6th-ranked Schwaerzler, appearing in his second ATP tour-level match, encouragement when they met at the net.

"When you come to your tournament and probably the biggest crowd you have played in front of, as an 18-year-old and you're playing the world No. 3, it's not the easiest thing in the

world," Zverev said. "I've been there. I did that as a 17-yearold in Hamburg, where I got to the semifinals and all of a sudden had a sold out stadium and was playing against a certain David Ferrer.
"The match was over half an hour later and I won one (Schwaerzler) feels. It's not an easy situation to be in but he's a wonderful player and he's going to have a wonderful

Zverev's 60th win of the year equalled his season best from 2018. In other matches, Italians Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli were also

Hockey, shooting, cricket, badminton among major sports axed from 2026 Glasgow CWG

PTI ■ LONDON

Tn a body blow to India's Imedal prospects in the Commonwealth Games, key sports such as hockey, badminton, wrestling, cricket and shooting have been dropped from the 2026 edition by host city Glasgow, which unveiled a pruned roster of 10 disciplines to keep the event budget-friendly.

Table tennis, squash and triathlon have also been axed in a bid to limit the cost and streamline logistics given that only four venues will host the entire showpiece. The total number of events at the Games will be nine fewer compared to the 2022 Birmingham edition.

sports - striking a balance between ensuring the event has a multi-sport feel and the need to manage financial and operational risk," the Commonwealth Games said Federation in statement.

"The sports programme will include Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field),

Swimming Swimming Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball," the Commonwealth Games Federation said statement.

The 23rd edition of the Games is scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 2, marking Glasgow's return as host after 12 years.

"The Games will take place across four venues Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Emirates Arena including the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and the Scottis Campus Athletes and support staff will housed accommodation," it added.

The roster is a massive setback to India's medal prospects given that bulk of the country's medals came from the removed disciplines in the past editions. Shooting was never expected to return



after being dropped from the Birmingham programme four years ago, owing to logistics. While announcing said "Glasgow 2026 will feature a 10-sport programme concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile corridor"

This ruled shooting out of the roster as the Barry Buddon centre in Dundee -- the venue during the 2014 CWG -- is more than 100km away from Glasgow.

continued to be ignored. The sport last featured at the Games in the 2010 Delhi edition.

Exhibition and Scottish Conference Centre, which hosted hockey and wrestling in 2014, has been dropped from the list of venues, while Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, where badminton was held that year, will be used only for

cycling this time. 100km away from Aside from cost, hockey's exclusion could also be down

to the fact that the Games are being organised close to the World Cup that is scheduled two weeks later from August 15 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands The Australian state of Victoria was the original host of the 2026 edition but pulled out last year due to rising costs. Scotland then stepped in to save the Games.

Hockey's omission from the Games would be a significant blow for India. The men's team has won three silver and two bronze medals, while the women have also shone, clinching three medals, including a historic gold in the 2002 Games.

In badminton, India has racked up an impressive 31 and 13 bronze.

Notably, the nation was to enter the 2026 edition as defending champions in men's and women's singles, as well as men's doubles.

Shooting was a stronghold for India, with a staggering 135 medals to its name. The count included 63 gold, 44 silver, and 28 bronze.

The wrestling competition has yielded 114 medals for the nation, including 49 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronzes.

the cricket's After reintroduction in 2022, the Indian women's team claimed a silver.

Para-athletes have been a part of the Games since the 2002 Manchester edition and will continue to be there in

the 2026 edition as well. "Para sport will once again be fully integrated as a key priority and point of difference for the Games, with six Para sports included on the sport programme,"

CGF said. The CGF said that the Games will deliver over 100 million pounds of "inward into the is expected to add an economic value of over 150 million pounds for the

The body asserted that all this would be possible thanks to a model "that has been specially designed to not require public funding for the delivery of the



Neymar back after a year out and helps Al-Hilal in Asian Champions League

Neymar returned to action after a year out through injury and helped Al-Hilal beat Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates 5-4 in the group stage of the AFC Champions League Elite. Neymar signed for the Saudi

Arabia club in August 2023 but played only five times before tearing an anterior cruciate ligament October. He came off the bench 369 days later for the four-time Asian champion with 13 minutes remaining at Al Ain. He almost scored

champion, Renan Lodi gave Al-Hilal the opener after 26 minutes. Soufiane Rahimi, the tournament top scorer last season, leveled soon after.By the break, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic and Salem Al-Dawsari put Hilal 3-1 ahead Mateo Sanabria ahead.Mateo Sanabria pulled a goal back just after the hour but Al-Dawsari scored twice more to complete a hat trick, and Rahimi achieved the same

feat to make it 5-4.

immediately when his low shot from left of the area shaved the post.

The win maintained Al-Hilal's perfect record in Asia after three games.

In a thrilling match between
Al-Hilal and the defending
Al-Ahli won at Qatar's Al-Rayyan 2-1 thanks to goals from Gabri Veiga and Firas Al-Buraikan.

Iraq's Al-Shorta drew with Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor 0-0, and Qatar's Al-Sadd defeated Iran's Persepolis 1-

Al-Nassr and Cristiano Ronaldo are in action on Tuesday against Esteghlal of Iran. The game was moved from Tehran to Dubai due to the security situation in

India eye top spot, Bangladesh seek crucial draw in SAFF showdown

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

With a semifinal spot already secured, India will look to reaffirm their dominance when they take on Bangladesh in their final Group A match of the SAFF Women's Championship here on Wednesday. For Bangladesh, a win would

hand them them the top spot in Group A.

As things stand now, India lead the table with three points, while second-placed Bangladesh have a superior goal difference (0) against Pakistan (-3), with both teams

sitting on one point each. A draw would leave Bangladesh as group runners-

up with two points.
The Blue Tigresses clinched their place in the semifinals with a commanding 5-2 victory over Pakistan but now their focus shifts to topping

their focus shifts to topping the group and avenging a painful memory of 2022. In that edition, Bangladesh dealt a shocking blow on India by ending their unbeaten streak in the championship with a decisive 3-0 win in the group stage 3-0 win in the group stage. It marked the first time India had lost to their South Asian rivals in SAFF history, and the

Blue Tigresses will be eager to



before, and we watched their last game against Pakistan. Our sole focus now is to win this match," skipper Bala Devi

We have both senior and young players and we are prepared to push for a win. We have had productive training sessions, and I hope we can put what we have

practiced into action." As the captain, I aim to lead by example and support the team in every Bangladesh has some fast and

our mental strength gives us an edge, which will be crucial in tomorrow's game," added 34-year-old Manipur. Head coach Santosh Kashyap

has led the team through five days of training in Kathmandu, preparing for the challenges that lie ahead against Bangladesh. He has carefully assessed all the potential threats posed by

the opposition.

"Tomorrow's match will be challenging, as Bangladesh are a strong side with a

foreign coach and have solid tactical plans. Although we have already booked a spot in the semi-finals, we are taking it one game at a time, aiming to win every match.
"I prefer playing attacking

football because it's not only effective but also entertaining for everyone. It's a style that I, as well as the players, enjoy, and we will try to maintain that momentum," Kashyap

Defender Dalima Chhibber, who was named the Most Valuable Player in the 2019

return to the tournament after missing the 2022 edition. She was absent last time due to playing three seasons in Canada, but now she's back and ready to compute in the and ready to compete in the SAFF Championship once Bangladesh and Pakistan are currently tied on one point each after a 1-1 draw in their

Championship, is making her

group-stage match. For Bangladesh, the absence of coach Golam Rabbani Choton, along with key players like defender Akhi Khatun and Anai Mogini, will be felt.

However, the team have brought in fresh talents, including young players such as Afeida Khandakar, Matsushima Sumaya, and Airin Khatun.

"We are coming up against an Indian team, who, in my opinion, are probably the best team in the tournament," Bangladesh head coach Peter Butler said.

"They are very disciplined and organised in their manner and their demeanour of actually how they walk around the hotel. I think it'll be quite an attacking game. The most important thing is to try and share out the workload with all our players.

NO POINT SUGARCOATING, THERE'S FIGHT FOR A SPOT BETWEEN RAHUL AND SARFARAZ: TEN DOESCHATE

ndia assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said on Tuesday that middle-order batters KL Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan are locked in a selection battle for the second Test against New Zealand here even though head coach Gautam Gambhir is keen to give the former,

With India looking to bounce back from the eight-wicket thrashing at Bengaluru in the opening Test, focus will be on the team combination with Washington Sundar being added to the squad. Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are both aiming to shake off injury concerns for the match starting Thursday.

"Yeah, there's no point in sugarcoating it, there's a fight for a spot," ten Doeschate told the media when asked if Rahul and Sarfaraz were battling for a place in the team, here at the MCA Stadium ahead of India's training session.

"Sarfaraz was obviously brilliant in the last Test. I went to KL after the last Test (and) said how many balls do you play at (and) miss at? He didn't play at (and) miss at one ball and that's what tends to happen when you're not getting runs.

"There's certainly no concerns about KL, he's batting nicely, he's in a good mental space. But we are certainly



going to have to fit seven pieces into six spots for this Test and look at the pitch now and decide what's going to be best for the team," he said.

Sarfaraz scored a second-innings 150 in the Bengaluru game, while Rahul remained off-colour in both

While admitting that it is difficult to keep Rahul out of the equation in the Test format, ten Doeschate said head coach Gautam Gambhir is "keen to" give him a long rope. "It's not like we're worried about his form. If you go on just the past three months since Gauti has been in here, he's keen to give him (Rahul) as much rope as we can. We have a lot of faith in him," he said.

"But at the same time, it's a very competitive environment, with Sarfaraz getting 150 plus runs (222 not out) in the Irani Trophy final. The decision will be what's best for the team, but we'll certainly back all the guys in," he added.

Pant, who did not keep wickets for a significant part of the opening Test,

and Shubman Gill, who missed the match due to stiffness in his neck, are close to attaining their full

"Rishabh is pretty good. I think Rohit (Sharmna) touched on it the other day. He was having a little bit of discomfort at the end range of his movement with the knee. But fingers crossed, he'll be good to keep in the Test as well," he said.

"He (Gill) looks so (available for this Test). He has batted last week in Bangalore, he had a few nets, he's got

a little bit of discomfort, but I think he'll be good to go for the Test," he

Ten Doeschate said the addition of Washington Sundar is "no desperate measure" but to add a bowling option who would take the ball away

from the Kiwis left-handers.
"Definitely not. They (New Zealand) are filled with four left-handers in the XI. We've had Washy around the white-ball squad for a while and we like the way he operates. It's also nice to see that guys are getting rewarded for Ranji Trophy performance as

well."
"We just want to make sure we're absolutely prepared for conditions here and if that does mean taking the ball away from the left-hander, we want that option," he added.

Ten Doeschate said Mohammed Siraj could be going through a "wicket-drought" but there was

nothing to suggest that he was struggling for rhythm.
"Siraj bowled beautifully in the second innings. That hour of Test match cricket on the last morning was really high quality," he said.

"It maybe wasn't a nicking wicket, which is obviously his big strength, particularly to left-handers when he moves the ball across. There's nothing there to say like he's not bowling well or his rhythm is not

"Alongside trying to win the

series, the tour will serve as

important preparation for next year's ODI World Cup in

Women's T20 World Cup in

Dubai with a 32-run win over

"It's been an amazing 24 hours

for this group becoming T20 World Cup champions," said

"We're relishing the win but when we get to India we'll need

to refocus and set our sights on the next challenge." New Zealand Women's ODI

squad: Sophie Devine (C),

Suzie Bates, Eden Carson,

Lauren Down, Izzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke

Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Polly Inglis (WK),

Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Melie Kerr, Molly Penfold, Georgia

Plimmer, Hannah Rowe, Lea

Zealand won the

Índia.'

New

South Africa.



Cook backs Root to surpass Sachin Tendulkar as leading run-getter in Test cricket

Palastair Cook feels Joe Root has the potential to surpass the legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the leading rungetter in Test cricket thanks to his insatiable hunger and incredible talent.

33-year-old The currently has 12716 Test runs and is 3205 short of the Indian icon (15921).

Root occupies the fifth spot in the leading run-getter's chart at the moment with Rahul Dravid (13,288), Jacques Kallis (13,289) and Ricky Ponting (13,378) and Tendulkar ahead of him.

"I think Joe Root could set a mark, certainly on an English side, that'll be very hard to beat. But, you just never know," Cook was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"I hope he can get very close, if not be the first person who scores 16,000 Test runs. It'd be a great achievement." Root overtook Cook as

England's leading run-scorer in the longest format during

Pakistan earlier this month. watched Having compatriot go past him to become England's most decorated batter, the 39-year-old Cook struggled to express his feelings and called up Root to congratulate him for his massive feat.

"I watched the moment, then I rang him after the end of the play. I couldn't think of the right words to write in a text message," Coon said.

"So, I thought I'd just ring him, see what he was up to, and make sure he had a beer in his hand, which I think he did." Root's remarkable form over the past four years has seen him score more than half of his total 35 Test centuries in that period, averaging close to

Cook believes that he is currently the best batter in the world with New Zealand's Kane Williamson coming close to matching him.
"I think at this precise

moment in time, I find it hard to see anyone playing as well as Joe Root.

AFFIDAVIT By virtue of an affidavit sworn

before the Executive Magistrate Tehsildar, Baliapal 17/10/2024, I, Mamata Pradhan W/O Bikram Kumar Sahu, At-Kanhupentha, Po-Balarampur P.S-Balianal Dist-Balasore, Odisha do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Mamata Sahu to Mamata Pradhan. Mamata Pradhan & Mamata Sahu is the same and one Person. Hence this affidavit is sworn to be produced for correction of my name in my Bank Account No 17550110051801,UCO Bank, Debhog Branch

Sd/-Mamata Pradhan

CHANGE OF NAME

aged-17-Years

IAGANNATH BISWAL S/O SANKARSAN BISWAL R/O At-Mundiasahipo-Talabarakote Via-Gobindpur Dhenkanal Orissa 759027 changed my minor Son's name SOMYO PRAKASH BISWAL alias SOMYAPRAKASH BISWAI to SOMYO PRAKASH BISWAI

We're here to make amends: **Cummins**

PTI MUMBAI

Australian skipper Pat Cummins is determined to "make amends" against India in the upcoming five-match Test series, as he aims to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in over a decade. The two teams will face off in a

five-match series starting November 22 in Perth. India will come into the contest with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy firmly in their grasp, having held it for nearly a decade and winning two consecutive series in Australia. "We've had a bit of a break, so I'm excited for the five match Test series. Excited to get into it," the 31-year-old said in Star Sports' Press Room."We haven't had a lot of luck against India over the last few Test series, but we always pride ourselves on playing well here in Australia.

Senior New Zealand batter Kane Williamson will not be

available for the second Test against India here as his

rehabilitation from a groin strain is still not complete, the

New Zealand lead the three-

match series 1-0 after winning

the first game by eight wickets

in Bengaluru. The second

match will start here on

Williamson, who is yet to join

country's cricket

Thursday.

announced on Tuesday.

Inglis earns maiden call-up as NZ name squad for Women's ODI series against India challenge ahead.

PTI CHRISTCHURCH

Wicketkeeper-batter Polly Inglis earned her maiden call-up as recently-crowned T20 World New Zealand champions announced their 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against beginning Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Inglis, 28, was rewarded for consistent performances with both bat and gloves for Otago Sparks in the women's Super Smash and New Zealand A, leading to her first New Zealand Cricket central contract in June. "We're really excited to introduce Polly for her first tour," Head coach Ben Sawyer said in a statement. "She put her hand up in last

Hallyburton Johnstone Shield one-day competition and throughout the New Zealand A series

Williamson ruled out of 2nd Test against India



against England, so it's a great next step for her.

Lauren Down also returns to the squad after resuming international cricket in July following a maternity break. Rosemary Mair, who sustained

Blackcaps head coach Gary Stead said Williamson was not

vet ready even though he has made significant progress.

"We're monitoring Kane and he's tracking in the right

direction, but isn't yet 100 per cent fit," said Stead in a statement issued by New

We're hopeful to see further

improvement over the coming

days and have him available for

'We'll give him as much time

as possible to get himself ready,

Zealand Cricket (NZC).

the third Test.

serious back injury earlier this year, has been rested as of her long-term rehabilitation.

Mair and off-spinner Leigh Kasperek are the only two players missing from the squad

in the UAE. "Touring India is one of the great experiences in world cricket," Sawyer said. "It's such a special place to

come and I know everyone is looking forward to the

KENDRAPARA (RandB) DIVISION-I, KENDRAPARA GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" procurement Notice (Short Notice) e-procurement Notice for Road works Bid Identification No. S.E., R n B KDP- 05/ 2024-25

10 (Ten) Days

From 11.00 A.M. of 25/10/2024 to 5:30 PM 05/11/2024.

Further details with any addendum, corrigendum, cancellation can be seen from the State Govt. portal https://tendersorissa.gov.in

but certainly continue to take a cautious approach," he added. the squad here, suffered the injury during the recent Test The third Test is scheduled in Mumbai from November 1. series against Sri Lanka. MI, KKR among five IPL franchises bidding for teams in The Hundred: Report mentioned the possibility of a "hybrid" ownership model, Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, where some teams remain under ECB control while others are sold to private

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants are among the IPL franchises who have submitted bids to acquire teams in the English Cricket Board-run The Hundred, according to a report.

The GMR Group, recently named the new owner of Hampshire, and Avram Glazer, co-owner of Manchester United Football Club, also submitted bids before the ECB's October 18 deadline for potential investors, reported ESPNCricinfo.

The ECB has invited bids for a 49 per cent stake in each of the eight franchises, with the board retaining majority control.

"Expressions of interest could be for all eight teams, which would be culled to four in the next step which



will start in November when the investors get to meet the host counties of each Hundred franchise," stated the report.

"Following that, investors would need to prune their wishlist to four teams, as part of the second stage, which will then come down to two teams of which they would need to make their final choice.

The ECB is aiming to finalise investors by early 2025 but is committed to a deliberate approach to avoid "underselling what it believes is a valuable believes

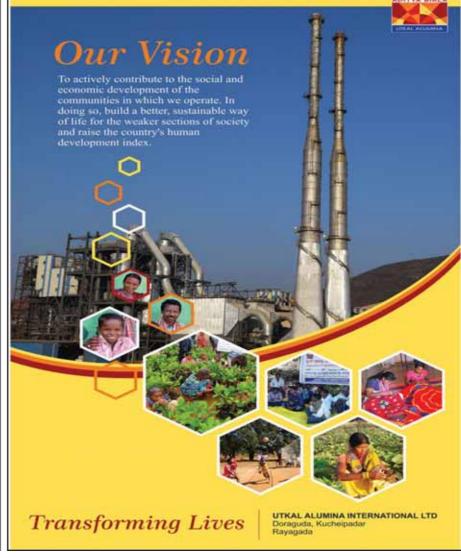
product". ECB chairman Richard Thompson has



while several IPL franchises showed early interest, not all followed through with bids. "Punjab Kings opted out, while there has been no confirmation on whether five-times IPL champions Chennai Super Kings and equity major CVC Capital Partners, which Gujarat Titans, have submitted bids," it added.

"Global sports investors owned by Jim INEOS. Ratcliffe, which owns a 27% stake in Manchester United and run the football club's operations wing, have also opted out of bidding." One of the main concerns

for IPL franchises was whether they would be "happy being passive



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RAIRANGPUR IRRIGATION DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR e-mail: eerrpurdivn@gmail.com 'e'-Procurement Notice No.02 RID/2024-25 - Canal improvement work and Road 2. Total no. of works : 14 nos (Fourteen) only Varies from 7.50 Lakh to 22.60Lakh Amount put to tende 4. Class of Contracto Period of completion (i) Procurement Officer 24.10.2024 from 10.00 Hours to 13.11.2024 up to 17.00 Hours On 14.11.2024 at 11.00 Hours in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Rai rrigation Division, Rairangpur. (iv) Date of Transparent Lottery to b On 21.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Ra Irrigation Division, Rairangpur. urther details can be seen from the 'e' Procurement Portal http://tendersorissa.gov.in Superintending Engineer Rairangpur Irrigation Division



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KALAHANDI NORTH DIVISION NEAR OLD GOVT. BUS STAND, BHAWANIPATNA, KALAHANDI, ODISHA - 766001

E-mail ID: dfo.kalahandinorth@odisha.gov.in Phone No. 06670-230526

Bid Identification No. BC-DFOKLDN - 04/2024-25 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Building Works as per DTCN available

No.	Name of the Work	in the website www.tenderodisha.gov.in
1	Estimated Cost	Rs. 16,57,384/- to Rs. 25,40,372/-
2	No. of Works	Nine nos. of Forest Guard Quarters & One Watch Tower
3	Period & time of completion	4 (Four) calendar months
4	Date & time of availability of the bid document in the portal	23.10.2024 to 02.11.2024 (Up to 5.00 PM) online bidding
5	Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal	Up to 5.00 PM of 02.11.2024
6	Date & Time of bid opening	11.00 AM on 04.11.2024
7	Name & Address of the officer inviting Bid	Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi North Division, At – Bhawanipatna, Dist – Kalahandi, PIN - 766001

Others can be seen from Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders available in

website: - www.tenderodisha.gov.in.

Kalahandi North Division

Corrigendum if any shall only be published. Divisional Forest Officer